



## 'The Yarner'

**President:** Christa Treasure  
**Vice President:** Chris Commins  
**Secretary:** Debbie Ray  
**Treasurer:** Anne Faithfull  
**Editorial:** [landlanderson@aol.com](mailto:landlanderson@aol.com)

### **New office bearers – AGM**

The annual general and Central Council meetings in late September saw some significant changes of the Association's office bearers.

Christa Treasure, Glenaladale, took over the president's role and Chris Commins, Ensay, was elected Vice President.

MCAV secretary of four years, Tim Barker resigned. Tim has worked with the MCAV since the 1970s, first through the Graziers Association of Victoria, then the Victorian Farmers Federation and also on a consultancy basis.

The MCAV thanks Tim for all his hard work. Debbie Ray of Sale has taken on the position of secretary while Anne Faithfull of Benambra is the new treasurer. Both are looking forward to the challenges ahead and their details are on the last page of the newsletter.

In other meeting news, after considerable discussion it was decided the MCAV would join Push for the Bush as a member.

It will work in conjunction with the group but each will keep separate identities.

It was agreed membership fees would be kept the same - the minimum fee is \$220 (GST inc.) and covers the first 100 head. Each additional beast costs \$3.30. Associates fees also remain the same – single \$30 and family \$40.

Neville Wright reported that the Murray Darling Basin Association had carried a resolution supporting the reintroduction of alpine grazing as a measure to preserve water harvesting capacities, an exciting development for the MCAV.

**NOVEMBER 20** – MCAV will host a field day at Nunniong with DSE staff to encourage understanding of the benefits of

alpine and state forest grazing and the environmentally sustainable manner in which licences are operated.

### **Get-Together set to roll in January**

The annual MCAV Get-Together will run at Junction Plain, Cobungra Station, Omeo, January 11-13, 2008.

Gates open 9am Friday and a three-day adult pass is \$60; a two-day pass is \$50 and it's \$15 for Sunday only. Children 14 and under enter free.

There will be fresh local catering, toilets and showers. As usual, no glass, no camp fires and all dogs must be on a leash.

However, there's a new event on the program, known as Australia's latest sports craze!

Move aside air-guitar... there's a new craze in town. It's called Air-Bull Rodeo!

The MCAV is proud to announce the inaugural Air-Bull riding Championship at the 2008 Get-Together!

And that's no bull...

All you have to do is jump on your imaginary bull, get shot out of the chute and then buck your 8 seconds to rodeo glory! Air-bull riders will be judged on style, outfit and how big you can buck! There are great prizes to be won and Air-Bull riding champions will be awarded a gold and silver Air-Bull buckle. Air-Bull is 100 per cent safe, RSPCA approved and is your chance to become a national air-rodeo champion, so get practicing in your own back yard.

And remember, it's NO BULL!

### **MCAV 'crusade' – president**

Christa Treasure is the association's second female president after Mary Goldsworthy in the early '90s.

"This is one of the hardest times the MCAV has ever faced but we're planning to keep the need to graze alpine and state forests at the forefront. As I see it, our crusade is to educate the public about how badly the bureaucrats have managed our bush."

The new role has seen Christa repeatedly asked by reporters about changing the 'men' in Mountain Cattlemen to 'people'. Christa is of the same opinion she held when she was MCAV secretary 25 years ago.

"It doesn't bother me – that's the name of my association," she tells them.

Christa was the first female to ride in the Cattlemen's Cup, started MCAV merchandise with t-shirts and with others made the first posters, quart pots and bells.

Christa said the MCAV's constitution (as follows) directs members to work with other groups.

- To promote and protect the interests of cattlemen who by various arrangements graze cattle on Crown Land.
- To promote better understanding by the public of the value of grazing cattle on Crown Land.
- To encourage good relations and working relationship with all other person and/or organisations interested in grazing cattle on Crown Lands.
- To act in conjunction with individuals, Associations or unions with similar objectives in any part of Australia.

"I think it's good we have input from three other bush groups in this newsletter," Christa says. "There is strength in numbers and country people need to band together."

### **MCAV Air-Bull ride**

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### **'Mega-fires' imminent - EGWT**

On reading your 'Voice of the Mountains' journal No 30 (2007) and, in particular, your president's comments regarding the mismanagement of our forests, we wish to introduce your readers to our group of concerned bush people in Far East Gippsland.

Several years ago we formed the East Gippsland Wildfire Taskforce Inc with the aim of calling to task the mismanagement by Department of Sustainability and Environment and Parks Victoria in regard to fire and forest management. Our forests and parks are in a terrible state. The forest fuel build up is causing great concern. We had large fires in '83; nothing since and precious little fuel reduction burning to protect the future of the bush and its bio-diversity.

We have a disaster similar to the '03 and '07 fires elsewhere waiting to happen.

Back in the '60s and '70s we had a branch of the MCAV based at Orbost with about 25 active members. The local bush runs needed burning every few years to provide good winter grazing but with DSE's burning policy and Parks' land grabs, bush grazing in our area is not practical and is finished forever.

However, this does not alter our love of the bush and all that is in it. There are a number of groups similar to ours with similar objectives and if we can only all bring pressure to bear on Government and DSE then we may get the message across that fire is a necessary part of our bush. Until fire is used again to reduce fuel and create a mosaic of different aged burns as nature intended, we can only look forward with trepidation to more mega-fires.

**John Mulligan, EGWT president**

### **Push For The Bush supports MCAV**

At a well attended AGM held at Howqua Hills in September it was decided to continue the activities of this successful lobby group.

In her report, president Wendy Jubb-Stoney listed the many activities undertaken on behalf of the MCAV and other rural groups over the past 18 months.

Briefly those efforts on behalf of the MCAV cause included:

- Constantly publishing the cause of the MCAV on our website, email bulletins and press releases.
- Organising meetings, expeditions and protests which were covered by the press at Wonnangatta, Dargo High Plains, Merrijig, Warragul, Echuca, Koondrook, Benalla, Melbourne, Bogong High Plains.
- Issuing press releases on various issues mainly with the MCAV and public land issues in mind.
- Organising two fully equipped trailers to assist in the rebuild of alpine huts in conjunction with the MCAV
- Organising relief goods for the fire and flood victims (Thanks to John Dowdle for these two initiatives)

Country Voice which became Push For The Bush, has worked closely with key people in the MCAV since the 2005 Victorian Government decision to ban cattle grazing in the Alpine National Park. It is proud of the high profile the MCAV achieved as a result of its work.

Organiser Bob Richardson has been tireless in his enthusiasm to keep the pot boiling and he is owed a great vote of thanks.

At present Bob is working with the "Plug The Pipe" group in an effort to stop Northern Water being piped from a drought area to Melbourne and is maintaining the website **[www.pushforthebush.org](http://www.pushforthebush.org)**.

Finances are low, so PFTB in conjunction with the Lovick and Stoney families is planning a major fund raiser called

**"The Great Victorian Horse Ride"**.

This five-day ride through Ned Kelly country and King Valley wineries is scheduled to take place at the end of March 2008. Resource manager for PFTB John Dowdle, is assisting with logistics and donations.

People interested in bringing their horse and riding can contact the Lovicks or Stoneys.



### **Wild dogs – a first at Dinner Plain**

A formal meeting of all Victorian Wild Dog managers at Dinner Plain in October was a first for the essential group.

It's hoped the forum will result in the group having more forceful representation in government decision making.

The forum included senior wild doggers, Gippsland and North East Wild Dog Management Groups and Big and Little Desert Management teams.

They met with senior research scientists and the National Wild Dog facilitator to discuss current and future federal and state developments of wild dog programs.

In December the second National Forum on Wild Dog Strategy will be held in Wodonga. The appointment of National Facilitator, Greg Misford, based in Queensland has made the national forum possible and is a positive move.

The group may be able to attract federal money as a result and coordinate an Australia-wide approach. There were eight presenters at the forum.

Anne Dennis, Pest management DSE, spoke about how Victoria's wild dog funding – about \$480,000 annually – was allocated.

It seems as though Victoria continues to do research already proven in other states.

Quentin Hart represented the Invasion Species Bureau of Rural Research, ACT. This group has done much research and has a valuable website: **[www.feral.org.au](http://www.feral.org.au)**.

They have also done a lot of work on toxin PAPP, the alternative toxin to 1080.

Andrew Claridge of Parks and Wildlife Division, Department of Environment and Climate Change, NSW, presented research

on the impact of 1080 on Quoll populations in the Upper Snowy River Catchments.

He reported "aerial baiting had no observable impact on the local radio collared Quoll population, a finding consistent with results from a similar study recently conducted in northern NSW".

The study also found 32 percent of the Quolls tested had taken a poison bait and all survived. Why do we have to keep proving the fact that 1080 is a safe toxin with Quolls and all our native animals?

Rob Hunt, of the Pest Management Unit, NSW, presented research into lethal trap devices (LTDs). With animal welfare being a major public concern, we need to be seen leading research in this direction as well.

As Rob Hunt puts it "not instead of but *as well*". In other words more tools for different situations.

Director of Australian Hydatid Control and the Epidemiology program, David Jenkins, spoke on the emerging problem of Neosporum. We don't know the extent of the problem but some cattle herds have been identified as having abortion rates of up to 40-50 percent.

David spoke on Hydatids, a big problem in peri-urban areas. For example, Shire of Maroochy trappers are trapping wild dogs in playgrounds/urban parks and wild dogs are roaming the streets.

With Hydatid infestation, the impact on humans may not become apparent until 10-20 years after infestation.

Maryanne Martin, DPI, Vic, spoke of her research on the social impact on affected landholders, support staff and communities which was very useful to see the depth of feeling generated and how relationships can be destroyed with lack of understanding of social and economic impact.

In all, the meeting was a good start to: start a coordinated approach at both state and national levels; get a greater understanding of the issues by those involved in the program and also get research programs up and running and utilise research done in other states.

**Fraser Barry, landholder rep,  
Gippsland Wild Dog  
Management Group**



### **Call to follow Tasmania's Parks**

Unlike Victoria, where National Parks seems to have a "Lock it up and leave it" approach to land management, Tasmania has a much more balanced and sensible management regime.

Tasmanian legislation actually advocates grazing as a management tool in National Parks areas such as Cradle Mountain and the Arthur-Pieman Conservation area where land is classified into categories and managed accordingly.

John and Rachael Treasure have discovered a great contact within Tassie's Department of Tourism, Parks, Heritage and the Arts.

"Several years ago we met the regional manager of Park and Wildlife Service," Rachael said.

"He has since given us some wonderful feedback about how cattle are welcomed as a management tool by Parks Rangers. "Because of his position he is unable to speak politically about the Victorian issue, but he can speak of his job which entails being in charge of the entire West Coast of Tasmania.

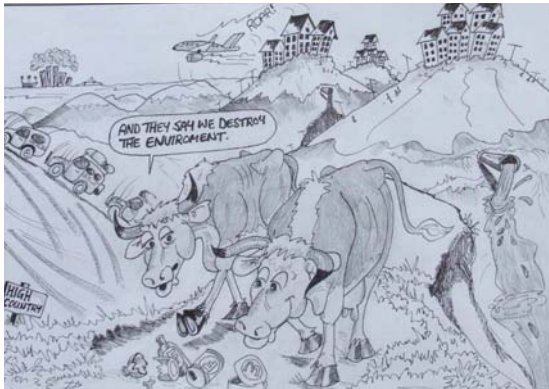
"He has highlighted how Parks actually welcome cattle to graze on certain areas within Cradle Mountain and the sensitive coastal areas of the West. In each area, Parks is guided by local consultative groups and they are invited to have input on a management committee for the land. On the committee are nominees for the cattlemen, conservationists, Aborigines and a member from the managing authority. By placing decision making and responsibility for the land back into local community groups, many positive actions have resulted on the ground.

The cattlemen advise Parks on areas suitable for grazing, where capital needs to be spent on maintenance, identifying areas needed to be excluded from grazing, fencing plans to

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cost \$50 – contact MCAV secretary**

assist with hazardous watering points and degraded creek banks and areas needing cultural heritage protection.

The Park Ranger said because local people with local know-how are in charge of their own areas, there is a terrific outcome for everyone. He said management from a city-based organisation just doesn't work - for the sake of the land and the local community. Instead of wasting energy and resources arguing over 'them and us', the management committees encourage ownership of issues and communication between all parties. As a result more time and money is spent on the ground where it's needed. The ranger is happy to discuss grazing methods with Victorian Cattlemen. Email John and Rachael Treasure at [info@rachaeltreasure.com](mailto:info@rachaeltreasure.com) and they will forward enquiries.



### **RIDE TO GET TOGETHER 2008**

Doug Treasure, immediate MCAV past president is organising a ride to the Get-Together and extends an open invitation to all. Riders need to bring their own horse, equipment, feed and swag. As it is not a commercial operation, participants will be responsible for their own safety, in addition to taking full responsibility for their horses and vehicles. Doug has arranged for a mate to cater and supply a support vehicle. On-track costs for participants will be arranged closer to the event and participants are welcome to bring their own support vehicle and driver.

Doug plans to leave his property "Homelands" at Stratford about a week prior to the start of the Get-Together

The ride will follow traditional stock routes including the Insolvent Track, the original road to the Dargo and Crooked River gold diggings. The first day riders will travel

43km and camp the night at Cobbannah, the old coach horse changing station site.

The party will reach Dargo the next day (approx. 37km) and camp at the Dargo River Inn, and rest for a few days or do day rides in the Dargo area. The journey will continue to the Dargo High Plains (approx. 48km) and riders will spend the night at Treasure's homestead. Another rest day will allow people to explore the High Plains area. The party will reach Junction Plain after a ride of about 35km. Riders will cross the Dargo River after a descent of about 3000 feet and a steep climb up the other side of 3000ft, arriving at the Get Together site on Thursday night.

This will be a unique opportunity to explore the magnificent High Plains regions accompanied by an experienced bushman. Evenings around the campfire will be something to look forward to at the end of a long day!

**Contact Doug for further information on 03 5145 6353, 0427 456 353, or email [dougtreasure@bigpond.com](mailto:dougtreasure@bigpond.com).**

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**\*\* Thanks to Phillip Ronalds of Sale for his supportive and insightful cartoons.**

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### **Treasure's Waler Horses**

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### **MCAV Air-Bull ride**

Contact Doug, John and Rachael Treasure

### **MCAV CONTACT DETAILS:**

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## 2008 Advance port order request

To secure your 2008 port crock orders are now being taken. Limited quantities of "Old Cattleman's Port" will be purchased by the M.C.A.V. The cost per crock is \$38. The crocks make a great collectors item and the port is vintage, bottled and wax sealed at Bullers Winery Rutherglen.

Orders can be collected and paid for at the Get Together or can be sent via Australia Post at an additional cost of \$10 per unit. Orders dispatched via post will require payment at the time of ordering.

Crocks ordered, and nominated for collection, that remain unclaimed after midday on the Sunday of the Get Together will be returned to stock and offered for sale.

Please note, the port will not be available until the 2008 Get-Together.



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Simply cut this entire page off the newsletter and send it with your payment to the secretary. Then pick up your stamped form from the secretary's office at the Get-Together to gain your discount at the merchandise tent. Email recipients, please print out this form and fill in your details including your address before mailing to the secretary.

(This is to ensure multiple copies aren't made and presented at the tent.)

**MEMBERS:** \$220 (GST inc.) – first 100 head, each additional beast is \$3.30.

**ASSOCIATES:** single \$30 and family \$40. **Subs total:** \$\_\_\_\_\_

Names of family members included in this subscription:

**Please send this form to secretary Debbie Ray: PO Box 376, Sale 3850**



**Mountain  
Cattlemen's  
Association  
of Victoria**



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