

MARK COLEMAN PRESIDENTS SPEECH GET TOGETHER 2011

Firstly welcome to everyone especially to Minister Peter Walsh and Members of Parliament.

I'd like to thank our traditional owners and forefathers for showing us how to work with the alpine environment and not against it.

Exactly one year ago, the coalition in opposition came to our get together and promised to put the cattle back. This week, the coalition government has announced that promise has been kept. Today, Peter Walsh has given us some more details

The MCAV is delighted that six families have been invited to put cattle back into the park. Once again history has been made. We are aware however, that it is a long process and the MCAV stands ready to assist the government with its scientific research.

Let's not forget what happened to the mountain cattlemen. In 2005 the Labor government kicked them out of the alpine national park. In Parliament the coalition opposed the decision. They vowed to put the cattle back

This week in government they have delivered, and we are very grateful.

This is a decision for common sense. It is a victory for positive management of our public land. An important benefit of this historic move will ensure that the culture and knowledge of the mountain cattlemen will continue to be preserved.

The environmental movement says they don't mind the cattlemen; they just don't like their cattle. Well, you can't have mountain cattlemen without having their cattle.

Now, members of the MCAV stand ready to pass on their knowledge, of how this magnificent area should be cared for.

This week has been one small step for mountain cattleman but one giant leap forward for all bush users. The bush and our parks are for everyone to enjoy, not to be locked up for a few. Many people have contributed to this result announced today and I can't name them all. One person I will name is Philip Davis MP. Philip's unswerving assistance over many years has been appreciated by the MCAV.

Peter, on behalf of the Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria and on behalf of all Victorians who believe in what the MCAV stands for, Ladies and Gentlemen, please thank the Baillieu Government, for putting the cattle back.

The weekend has once again been really successful. I'd personally like to thank everyone for their attendance and support of the MCAV cause.

Great to see so many young people coming through / and participating in events, and helping to keep our traditions and heritage alive.



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Congratulations to the MCAV Omeo branch led by John Cook and Scotty Jennison, I think you will all agree it has been a successful and well run Get Together.

Our thanks to associate members for your loyalty to the MCAV your support and assistance continues to be invaluable.

We are a small organization, but we have won the hearts of the public and the respect of the media through professional conduct dignity and integrity.

Once again thank you to the coalition government for having the courage, commonsense and wisdom, to stand up and follow through with their convictions; for working with us with open communication and mutual respect.

The green movement underestimates the resilience of the mountain people. We are the ones that are left to fight the fires, to re-build the roads and bridges after the floods; we are the ones who ride over the next ridge to assist that person in need.

I promise you this we will continue to care for our high country.

Thank you



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