

Balancing brumby numbers in the High Country

A RETURN to traditional brumby control methods – that’s what the Mountain Cattlemen’s Association of Victoria (MCAV) wants to see happen in the High Country.

Public outrage has followed the Federal Court decision to allow brumby culling in the Bogong and Eastern Alps regions, but president of the MCAV, Bruce McCormack, said finding a humane way to balance wild horse numbers was most important.

“This is an issue that strikes at the heart of every Australian,” Mr McCormack said.

“As a country, we identify with the brumby and the folklore attached to them.

“People are disgusted that Parks Victoria has been given the green light to shoot a piece of Australia’s living heritage.”

However, Mr McCormack said the MCAV recognised brumby numbers had risen dramatically since Cattlemen were removed from their grazing runs in the High Country.

“We wish to make it clear, the MCAV supports practical management of the brumbies – but we certainly do not agree with mindlessly heading out and shooting them.”

Mr McCormack would like to see traditional brumby management techniques, utilised by Cattlemen for over 100 years, re-introduced.

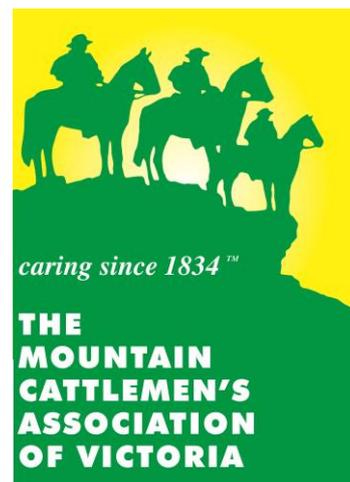
These include a three-pronged approach of trapping, running and mustering brumby herds.

From there, the MCAV recommends re-homing suitable animals with discretion for condition, age and sex.

“We believe brumbies should remain in genetically sustainable numbers in the High Country,” Mr McCormack said.

“There should be a balance struck between best land management practices as recommended by Cattlemen and brumby numbers – we need to remember these horses are a national icon, a tourism attraction and a piece of living history.”

For more information on the MCAV’s brumby policy, visit their website at www.mcav.com.au



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