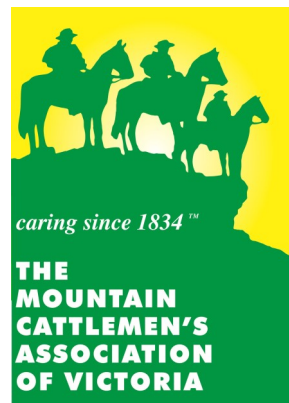


THE YARNER

The official newsletter of the **MCAV**



In this issue:

- MCAV welcomes a new president
- 2019 updated board & new staff
- Get Together news
- Bogong brumby update
- Snapshots—a new page of MCAV photos

MCAV WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT

THE MCAV welcomed a new president recently, with Merrijig Mountain Cattleman Bruce McCormack stepping into the chair at the group's AGM.

Mr McCormack's family has an association with the High Country that stretches back longer than the MCAV itself, with five generations of McCormack's before him having run cattle into the hills around Mansfield.

"I'm am very proud, and very humbled, to be taking on the president's position," Mr McCormack said.

"This organisation means a lot to me, my family and my way of life."

Mr McCormack runs a commercial Angus operation from the family property, Leonora, with his cattle grazing the country around Mountain Number Three and the King Valley every summer.

"The McCormack's have been doing this for nearly 200 years – in December this year my son, grandchildren, family and I will all saddle up and ride out again; it's a part of who we are, and it's why we have such a strong connection and affinity with the bush around us."

Mr McCormack takes over the reins as MCAV president from fellow Merrijig Mountain Cattleman, Graeme Stoney.

Mr Stoney has long been at the forefront of the MCAV's fight. He was a key player in the successful petition to retain grazing when the Alpine National Park was formed in 1989 - and has been part of the ongoing fight to return cattle to the Park when the Government removed them in 2005.

Mr Stoney has also been a firm believer that fuel loads in the bush are at dangerous levels, and has called on the government multiple times to heed indigenous advice on traditional burning methods.

"I will, of course, continue to remain involved with the MCAV," Mr Stoney said.

"Our work is far from finished – we want to see practical action on fuel loads, deer numbers, bush access, brumbies, Parks promotion and so much more – the MCAV is about managing the State Forest and National Parks that both benefit the land and the people who visit."

Both Mr McCormack and Mr Stoney will be at the MCAV's annual Get Together, to be held in their home town of Merrijig this coming January.

You can read Bruce's president message on our website—head to www.mcav.com.au



NEW PRESIDENT:

Graeme Stoney (left) has handed over the reins of MCAV president to fellow Merrijig Cattleman, Bruce McCormack.

Get Ready !

It's time for the 2020 G2G

Planning is under-way for our best Get Together yet.

To be held at McCormack Park in Merrijig, we have lots of new events, plenty of entertainment and a guaranteed good time.

So dust off your boots, prepare the swag and mark January 10—12 in the calendar.

Get Together tickets are still available at discounted prices online.

Head to www.mcav.com.au to grab yours now.

Entries are also open for all the horse events, which can be done online via our website.

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New MCAV Board appointed

The MCAV held their AGM in September at the Traralgon Winery, with a good number of Grazing, Nominee and Associate members making the effort to attend.

Along with the appointment of a new look board for 2019 (see right), the meeting saw a decision made to appoint an Associate Member in John Andrews.

This was the first time this has ever happened in the history of the MCAV—and shows the groups willingness to adapt to members needs.

John has been involved for many, many years with the MCAV and is renowned for his business acumen.

As the Associate Board Member, it is John's role to be the voice for all those Associates who want to have a say in how the MCAV is run, and what decisions are made when.

If you would like to speak to John, or have an issue you would like him to raise with the board, send an email to secretary@mcaav.com.au and he will be in touch.



NEW BOARD: The new look MCAV board above with (from left) Charlie Lovick, Chris Commins, Bruce Treasure, John Andrews, Chris Cooper, Lyric Anderson, Cass McCormack, Ken Heywood, Bruce McCormack, Graeme Stoney and Chris Hodge.



ALWAYS SMILING: These three blokes are always ready with a smile and a cup of tea with Charlie Lovick, Bruce McCormack and John Andrews.



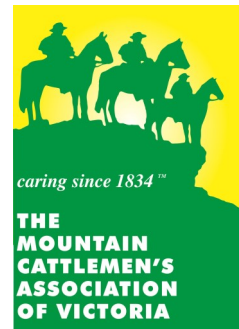
CATCHING UP: Cath Noble, Ken Heywood and Bruce Treasure caught up over lunch at the MCAV AGM.



WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU: The MCAV is only as strong as its members, and people like (from left) Rita McMahon, Christina Bila and Bill Maiden always make a massive effort for the team.



BROTHERS IN CHECK: How could we not grab a photo of (from left) Chris Hodge, Ross Brown and Chris Cooper when they all came dressed for success to the MCAV AGM



MCAV Board

President: Bruce McCormack

Vice President: Ben Treasure

Secretary: Ken Heywood

Past President: Graeme Stoney

**Interim Treasurer/
Associate Member:** John Andrews

**Special Projects
Officer:** Chris Commins

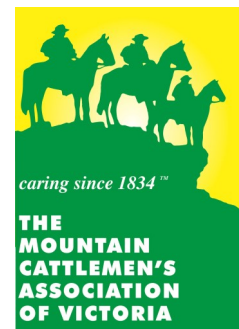
**North East Branch
reps:** Lyric Anderson & Bruce Treasure

**Mansfield Branch
reps:** Cass & Jack McCormack

Omeo Branch reps: Simon Turner & Darcy Fitzgerald

Gippsland Branch

THE YARNER



Parks prepare for another deer trial

In late August, the MCAV criticised Parks Victoria over their aerial deer cull, calling it pathetic.

The statement came following the release of deer harvest numbers from the Game Management Authority (GMA), which found record numbers of both deer taken and hunter activity recorded across the state.

"Parks has recently proudly announced it has reduced deer numbers by 119 in the Spring and then 130 in the Autumn using helicopters and back up ground crews," president at the time of the MCAV, Graeme Stoney, said.

According to the GMA, estimates of the 2018 deer harvest found that 121,600 deer were taken – an increase from 106,275 in 2017.

The numbers, Mr Stoney said, were in stark contrast to those touted by Parks.

"The pathetic numbers of deer culled by Parks efforts using helicopters have been received with some amusement from our members - clearly they are ridiculous," he said.

"How much did Parks Victoria spend on Helicopters and ground support to harvest a couple of hundred deer when recreational hunters are seen to be doing the job much better?"

Mr Stoney said the Parks strategy was further proof of their ineptitude as a management authority, calling the deer cull exercise "ineffective", and at "high taxpayer expense with helicopters reportedly costing up to \$2000 per hour."

"Recreational hunting has demonstrated its value not only in pest control, but also as an economic stimulus to those towns on the edge of deer habitat," Mr Stoney said.

The MCAV believe recreational hunters need to be given not only more incentives to hunt, but also right to access the Alpine National Park with dogs; something that is currently forbidden.

Now, Parks have announced the final trial in their ground culling efforts, scheduled to take place on select dates in November, December and January.

Work is carried out from late afternoon/early evening until after midnight, using spotlights and/or thermal imaging equipment, and most of the work will be undertaken on foot.

2020 MERRIJIG GET TOGETHER

Horses, dogs, Live entertainment, displays, living history, poetry, & much more!

Tickets on sale now

January 10 - 12, McCormack Park, Merrijig

MCAV.COM.AU
PH 03 5779 1747

caring since 1834™
THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

Merrijig Get Together — the best yet

Planning is at full speed for the Merrijig Get Together, being held at McCormack Park in Merrijig from January 10-12.

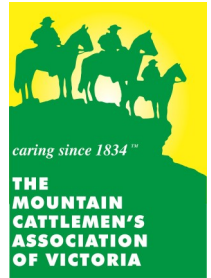
This year, there will be all your old favourites—the heritage tent, photographic display, poetry, hay stacking, whip cracking, dog high jump and horse novelties.

But will are also welcoming a swag of new events, all of them fun .

These include a new horse event, the Cattlemen's Obstacle Challenge, along with a Buck Out on the Friday night, an invitational Working Dog Trial and a horse v motorbike arena race.

We have booked three nights of fantastic live entertainment, have hired more shade tents for a better viewing experience and we want you—and your whole family—to have a weekend out you wont soon forget.

So make sure you leave January 10—12 free in the calendar, and start planning your weekend in Merrijig—it's going to be one you won't forget.



WE SUPPORT YOU: Jill Pickering (pictured centre) was in Mansfield recently to talk about brumby issues on the Bogong High Plains. She met up with local cattlemen and MCAV president, Bruce McCormack and Charlie Lovick.

Brumbies in the Bogongs

The Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria have pledged their support to retaining sustainable brumby numbers in the Alpine National Park.

Their statement comes after a meeting between local Cattlemen and Jill Pickering, president of the Australian Brumby Alliance (ABA).

Fresh from a meeting with Bill Tilley, Liberal member for Benambra, Ms Pickering met with MCAV members at Merrijig to plead the case of Australia's only wild horse.

"By the end of 2021, Parks want to have removed every brumby from the Bogong High Plains, and half from the Eastern Alps," Ms Pickering said.

"Those brumbies are one of our last links to our heritage; they need to be retained for historical value."

The ABA do not endorse uncontrolled brumby numbers, but rather think herds should be monitored, and maintained at sustainable levels to ensure a living link to history.

"We don't have a problem with numbers being managed, as long as they are not managed to extinction," Ms Pickering said.

So strongly is their belief that ABA have taken Parks Victoria to the Federal Court of Australia, arguing that brumbies need to remain in the High Country.

Although the case has not been finalised, the MCAV have pledged their support to brumbies remaining in parts of the Alpine National Park.

"They are trying to wash our heritage away; out of the mountains and out of history," Charlie Lovick said during the ABA meeting.

"They are calling them feral horses, not brumbies, in an effort to remove the public's emotional response.

"But the fact remains that it has been proposed to remove all horses from the Parks, and we do not believe this should happen.

"We have lived in the bush for long enough to feel like we have a right to say how it should be managed."

As an organisation, the MCAV agrees with brumbies being kept at manageable levels.

They think this should be achieved by trapping, brumby running and mustering – not aerial culls, as has been proposed in the past.

"We just want the chance to help manage the bush, the fuel loads and the animals that call it home," MCAV president, Bruce McCormack, said.

"It's all we, as cattlemen, have ever asked for."

More information on the Australian Brumby Alliance can be found at www.australianbrumbyalliance.org.au

Have your say

The Mountain Cattlemen's Association is only as strong as its members, and we need your feedback on issues that are important.

If you have something to say on bush management, heritage, pest control or anything else, please let us know by emailing secretary@mcav.com.au

Members, we thank you

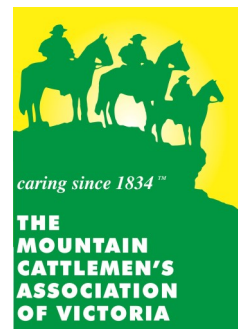
As a thank you to all our Associate members, we are offering **25 % off Get Together tickets**.

We want you to attend, and we want you to know how much we value your support.

Best of all, there's still time to become a member!

Email secretary@mcav.com.au to order.

THE YARNER



Out and about

- where you've seen the MCAV

The MCAV has been spotted a few times in recent months, hitting the newspaper stands for their criticism of Parks Victoria over Aerial deer culling, the announcement of a new president and the quickly gaining tempo of the Get Together.

You may have also seen stories featuring comment from the MCAV on a range of issues in the Stock and Land, Country News, Mansfield Courier, North East and Goulburn Murray Farmer, Bairnsdale Advertiser, The Local Paper, Euroa Gazette and much more!

We were also represented by the amazing John Dowdle, who flew the MCAV flag at the recent Bush User Group United (BUGA) rally recently.

Thanks John, and well done to all those who made the effort to attend the rally.

Together, we are stronger.

New faces

Sadly, after six years of managing the MCAV office, Georgie Connan has left the organisation.

She is already greatly missed, with her knowledge, business smarts and quick wit impossible to replace.

The MCAV owes Georgie an debt of gratitude as she helped navigate the tricky process of creating our new Constitution and By-Laws, and has been instrumental in helping develop both the High Country History Hub and our online membership subscription service.

Georgie is replaced by Rhyll McCormack, who is from Merrijig and will be based at the Mansfield office.

If you have any problems, questions or would just like to introduce yourself, you can email secretary@mca.v.com.au, or give her a call on the mobile on 0407 520 309.

Speaking of new faces, Cass McCormack, also from Merrijig, has taken on the role of 2020 Get Together Co-ordinator, as well as being the go to girl for merchandise.

Cass is already a familiar site at MCAV board meetings, having been a regular attendee since last year.

You can contact her on 0409 170 547.



AT THE OFFICE: Rhyll McCormack is the new MCAV Office Manager. Reach her by email at secretary@mca.v.com.au



BOSS LADY: Cass McCormack is the 2020 Get Together Co-Ordinator, and is also on the MCAV board as the branch delegate for Mansfield.

Growing stronger

The MCAV has undergone a lot of change in the last 12 months.

Along with establishing constitutions and by-laws, the group has continued to evolve and adapt with the times to remain an important lobbyist voice.

We have a new online membership system, a new representative for Associate Members on our board and new faces in the office and in the president's chair.

However, in order to stay relevant it is important to tell us, as a member, what you want.

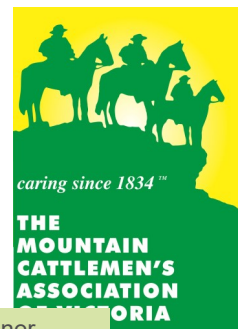
What issues should we be advocating for?

What's important to you,?

We are working harder than ever to get your message across to the Victorian Government—and we know we need to increase communication between our president, board and yourselves.

So you can look forward to hearing more from us, more often, as the months roll on - we're excited to reconnect!

THE YARNER



MCAV SNAPSHOTS



You know the face, but its hard to recognise the MCAV's right hand man in Scot-ty Jennison, who has grown an impres-sive beard over the last few months. Scotty was in Merrijig with partner Belin-da recently, both full of ideas on how we can make the 2020 event the best one yet!



Discussing some of the finer points of the Merrijig Get Together site recently were, from left, Char-lie Lovick, Bruce McCormack, Kane Lovick, Jan and Mick Nel-son, Cass McCormack, Michelle and Kerry Burrowes and Harry Lovick.

It's hard not to get excited when your planning for an event in such an amazing location! This is the main arena at McCormack Park in Merrijig, just waiting for the crowds to arrive.



The Travelling billboard Written by MCAV member Alan Reid

During the 1950s and 1960s cattlemen in the NSW high country were fighting a battle to retain access to snow leases in what has become the Kosciuszko National Park.

At one meeting with authorities, Jack Treasure and a few of his fellow stockmen came to Jindabyne to lend their support. My most enduring memory of that meeting is Jack's enthusiasm for retention of stock in the mountains and the important role the stockmen played in their vested interest to protect the environment and its fauna and flora.

His warning of devastation unfortunately proved to be correct, with frequent widespread hot fires and destruction of huge tracts of land and the spread of feral animals and flora.

Because of Jack's support for our campaign I feel I owe the mountain cattlemen and your association to ensure the same mistakes made in NSW are not repeated in Victoria.

I spread the word whenever and wherever I can by sharing my experiences in the NSW high country during the time of the snow leases and pointing out the importance of retaining stock and the stockmen and women as part of Victoria's high coun-try.

The vested interest of the people associated with stock in the high country is the only way to truly protect its biodiversity from ultimate destruction as had occurred in NSW.

The attached images of the rear of my ute, the motorbike trailer and the back of my motorbike are my way of spreading the word as widely as possible. I also have a standard MCAV sticker on the bull bar of the ute.

When travelling between destinations the bike and the bike trailer are on a custom built trailer pulled behind the ute.

Once I reach a destination, I unload the bike and bike trailer to travel around.

The ones on the rear of the bike trailer are reflective as are the round ones which I have mounted on the side so I am more visible when travelling at night.

They have attracted a lot of interest and people admit to having their eyes opened when the benefits of grazing in the high country are pointed out.

I have already handed out a few of the standard size stickers to interested people around Australia who have put them on vehicles and/or horse floats.

For the sake of the mountains please don't give up the fight. We lost in NSW – don't let the powers-that-be replicate the mis-takes of NSW.

Tell them to look at the devastation across the border if they want an image of the high country devoid of stock and without the true mountain people.

The only way to reduce feral animals and control introduced flora is with stock and involving stockmen and women in ongoing care of the high country.

The aborigines controlled the environment with the fire stick – the stockmen achieved the same objective with stock and controlled burning. The situation in NSW has proved that without those factors the result is complete environmental devastation.

It's more than just heritage and a lifestyle – it's the future of the mountains.

Thank you Jack Treasure for your efforts and your belief in the future.

As a footnote: Jack was the greatest whistler I ever encountered and I frequently recall that he had the bar in Jindabyne Hotel totally captivated with his rendition of various tunes.

Alan Reid,

