

THE YARNER

The official newsletter of the **MCAV**

What's inside:

- **MCAV merchandise goes online**
- **We chat to farrier Hayley Hinton about her Brumby challenge**
- **A date is set for the 2021 G2G**
- **MCAV Board changes**
- **Fox bounty resumes**
- **A visit to Mt Torbreck**

FOR SALE:

The MCAV Mercedes Merchandise van is for sale!

2005 Model LWB Sprinter, ex ambulance. 3 seats with service history.

Would be a great project for someone wanting a cheap camper van.

Just had brand new battery installed and checking over by autoelec.

213,000 kms. \$9000.

Contact the office on 03 5775 1127 or send us an email to secretary@mcaav.com.au



A word from our president—

It's been a while since our last Yarnier, so there is much to report.

Firstly, though It seems like so long ago, my family and I once again took our cattle up to the King River at the start of Summer. It's a tradition we have undertaken for more than 150 years, and to this day is a practice we hold onto very tightly. Many of you may know I run a trail ride business as well as the farm, so it will come as no surprise to learn that we field hundreds of emails each year from people wanting to come along on our cattle muster.

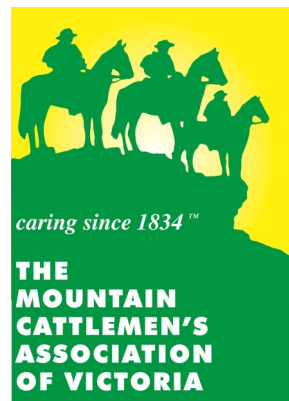
What may surprise you, though, is to learn that this is one weekend we do not open up to the public. Normally I am all for showing off our backyard – letting people discover the magic of the High Country from the seat of a saddle – but this is one tradition we reserve for family. It would be easy to turn it into a profit-making weekend, and the saddles would sell out years in advance I have no doubt. But we aren't interested in making a dollar from this tradition. It is a weekend we reserve for us; its me and my sister, my son, my daughters, my grandkids.

My nieces and nephews come along, a cousin, an aunt. The faces vary each year, but the love does not waver. We are there to connect to the bush and to re-connect with each other. To tell the Melbourne family members that they wont get reception on the mobile, and that a chat around the campfire is entertainment enough.

It's a weekend for riding and driving, for slow trails beside the river and helping a new calf find its mum in the mob.

It's a tradition that I wouldn't swap for all the tea in china, and much like some families celebrate Christmas Eve or New Years Day, we celebrate our "cattle out the bush" weekend.

In other news, we have also held our AGM. A huge thanks to those that made the effort to come along, and it was great to see so many faces, many of whom travelled hours to attend. The Board itself remains largely unchanged except Chris Lewis has been elected as the new Associate Representative. It is his role to represent the needs and wishes of members like yourselves, so we know how we can be the most effective organization for you all. If you need Chris's email, please get in contact with Rhyl at the office.



Want your Yarnier posted?

This is our biggest Yarnier ever, and we don't want anyone to miss out on all the MCAV news and information.

If you prefer to receive your Yarnier in hard copy, please just let us know and we will add you onto our mail out list.

If you have a story for the Yarnier, an issue you would like us to cover or want to send in a letter to the editor shoot it to us by email at secretary@mcaav.com.au, or phone the office on 5775 1127.

We are also online, and post regularly to our Social media sites. So whichever way you want to receive your news, we have it covered.



THE YARNER

WE HAVE A DATE !

Yes, you read that right.

After almost two years we finally have a new date to look forward to, with the Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria Get Together officially moving to the first weekend in October.

Yes, this date does clash with the Deni Ute Muster. But when looking at alternative dates we quickly realized there was no weekend free. So instead we opened it up for discussion at the AGM, and it was decided October was the most suitable. This means there will be no more heatwaves, drought or bushfires to impact our event!

We know there could be other problems (we are holding our breath about Covid), but we are so excited about making the change and hope you all will be too.

There are other things we are planning to do different in 2021 as well; all ticket sales will be online. This is due to Covid, and we suspect will be the way of the future from now on.

Also, we are trying hard to focus on more family activities—we are talking more novelty events for the kids, more fun entertainment and an event you will not want to miss!

We are planning on more horse events, a different Cup formula, more fun for the dogs and more things to see and do.

We are also open to new ideas—have a great novelty suggestion? Please let us know!

Is there something you have always wanted us to include? Don't be afraid to say!

Know a great band just perfect for our Sunday night—hit us with the details!

Tickets will be released in May, with early bird options starting at \$90 for the three days.

Like our event page on Facebook to keep up to date, or keep an eye on the website.

Continued from page 1:

In other small Board changes, we welcome Philip Ryder as Board delegate member for the North East Branch, and Joe Connley as Omeo Branch Delegate.

The other big news to come out of the Board meeting was the decision to permanently shift our Get Together to the first weekend in October. No more heatwaves or bushfires for us! We hope you can all get on board with this change and get excited about it – we certainly are! Tickets will go on sale in May, so make sure you put in for your annual leave now.

We have also decided to hold a 'members only' weekend as part of the AGM from now on – a chance to throw a few snags on the BBQ and spend some time with all those of you who do so much for us – those volunteers who spend hours in the sun marshalling crowds, running water for judges, helping with paperwork and everything in between. We couldn't run our organization without you, and we want a chance to catch up without the pressure of running an event at the same time. We haven't set a date for our AGM weekend, but will keep you posted.

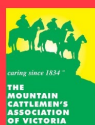
Bruce McCormack

WE HAVE A DATE !

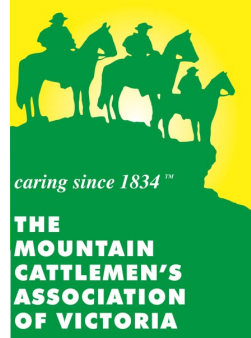
2021 G2G OCTOBER 1-3

Horses, dogs,
bands, displays,
poetry, novelties...
Online day or
camp tickets

TICKETS ON SALE MAY
McCormack Park, Merrijig



MCAV.COM.AU
PH 03 5779 1747



MCAV Board & People you can contact:

President: Bruce McCormack

Vice President: Ben Treasure

Secretary: Ken Heywood

Past President: Graeme Stoney

Treasurer: John Andrews

Associate Rep: Chris Lewis

Special Projects Officer: Chris Commins

North East Branch reps: Lyric Anderson & Philip Ryder. Emergency: Bruce Treasure

Mansfield Branch reps: Cass & Jack McCormack

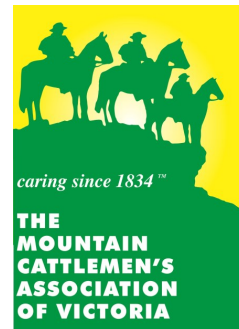
Omeo Branch reps: Joe Connley & Darcy Fitzgerald. Emergency: Simon Turner

Gippsland Branch reps: Chris Hodge & Rose Faithfull

Office Manager: Rhyl McCormack

Email: secretary@mcav.com.au

THE YARNER




MCAV opens online store—Members get 40% off

Our new online store is now fully operational online, and includes everything from port to umbrellas.

Over the years we have collected lots of bits and pieces in our merchandise collection, and now you can find most of it in our store. Looking for a free ear tag from the Hinnomunjie Get Together? We have them! A shirt for your Dad's birthday? We have those !

Our shop can be found by heading to the website and navigating across at the top.

As a way to thank you all for being members, we have also created a Members Special box. Each month you will be emailed a special discount code that can be applied to the Members Special – this month we are kicking off with a bang and offering 40% off all dress shirts!



**NOW
ONLINE**

NEW MCAV ONLINE STORE

Members get 40 % off monthly special
www.mcav.com.au

Have you visited the High Country History Hub?

Some years ago, the Mountain Cattlemen Association of Victoria, the Merrijig Hall Committee and the Mansfield Historical Society (MHS) joined forces and initiated a project to digitize and put on-line thousands of documents and photos.

The combined group applied for a grant, and with the MCAV committing \$30,000 cash up front - and the other groups supplying voluntary work in kind - the project was awarded a State Government grant of \$220,000.

Leading up to obtaining this it had become obvious to the MCAV that it had a responsibility to preserve the history of the High Country and especially its members.

The families were moving out because the cattle were gone and their history and heritage was about to be lost.

The MCAV Central Council were determined to preserve the High Country history. At the same time, it began to raise funds to begin filming the older High Country characters before they passed on.

When the scheme commenced photos, newspaper articles, videos and family documents were sourced and digitised then the original material returned to the owners.

So what of the future from this point: The Mansfield Historical Society is now responsible for the ongoing management of the library with the MCAV still involved in any major HCHH management decisions. The project will keep going, quietly adding to its collection

Separately from the HCHH, the Historical Society has a team of volunteers scanning photos and other information. More than 6000 publications, 5000 photos and film are available to view for free on the site. These can be purchased and the income from these sales keeps the HCHH website maintained.

The MCAV is proud that the vision and the investment it made some years ago has resulted in important High Country history and some stories of its families being preserved for posterity in a modern format.

Visit the website and see for yourself www.highcountryhistory.org.au/search/

THE YARNER



Remembering the Avro Anson

- 80th commemoration of the Mt Torbreck plane crash

It was a commemoration 80 years in the making, but last month more than 50 people turned out to remember the Air Force pilot and crewmen who lost their lives in Victoria's North East.

Back in 1940 an RAAF Avro Anson set out from Point Cook with four men on board – all starry-eyed young men dreaming of what their future might hold.

The plane never arrived at Camden, NSW, with the boys last radio communication confirming they were lost in bad weather near Mt Torbreck.

Despite RAAF, private and family searches combing the area, the plane wreckage was not found until 1941, when a local grazier stumbled across it.



REMEMBERING THE FALLEN: Anthony Dykes has been the main driver in the restoration of the Mt Torbreck A4-4 Avro Anson plane crash memorial, and organized the 80th commemoration..

That was 80 years ago, and over the Australia Day long weekend all those involved were remembered.

"These guys were their mid-20s with their whole lives in front of them – they didn't even get the chance to go overseas and fight, but died on home soil," organizer of the commemoration, Anthony Dykes, said.

"I know this story pretty much back to front – I've been up here hundreds of times and I still get chills.

"The fact that so many people cared enough to come here today demonstrates just how special this place is, and how important it is that we remember."

Mr. Dykes was involved in re-opening the site after it was found all but abandoned in the bush almost a decade ago.

Since then he and a volunteer team that maintain the site have spent countless hours clearing fallen mountain ash trees, widening the path and mounting the aircraft's engine as an additional memorial alongside the memorial cairn that was built by the RAAF in the 1960's

"We as a team are very proud to have this historically significant place to where it is now, but the most humbling thing is to see people come here and pay their respects," he said.



DOING IT FOR DUTY: RAAF Wing Commander Phil Beanland travelled to Mt Torbreck to MC the event.

"It will never be forgotten again."

Wing Commander Phil Beanland of RAAF 100 Squadron made the trip with his family to MC the commemoration, saying, like all lives lost during war, it was a tragedy: "This is the story of four young airman who tragically, in the prime of their lives, lost their lives; we honor them, their service and their sacrifice."

Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria president, Bruce McCormack, was also in attendance, representing the pioneers who first came across the plane wreckage.

"It is an honor that we were invited here today and is a great opportunity to reflect on how difficult it must have been for all our pioneers back then," Mr. McCormack said.

"No instruments in the plane, no phones to communicate among the searches, no motorbikes or vehicles to use to re-

trieve the bodies."

Bernadette Thomas, granddaughter of one of the crewmen lost, also made the two-kilometer trek to lay a wreath.

"This is a very emotional day for all of my family," she said.

Representatives from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Vic Frests and members of the general public were all in attendance.

If you would like to read more about the crash of the Avro Anson A4-4 at Mt Torbreck, head to www.highcountryadventuretours.com.au

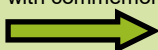
Access to the memorial site is via a 2.4 kilometre uphill walk along the A4-4 Avro Anson Memorial Track.

The walking track is medium grade and takes around an hour and a half to complete depending on fitness levels.



FAMILY TIES: Bernadette Thomas is the granddaughter of Flight Corporal Francis Hyland, one of the men to lose his life in the Anson crash.

PIONEERS: Bruce McCormack, president of the Mountain Cattlemen's Association, with commemoration organizer Anthony Dykes.



Grants now open to Victorian communities

- Up to \$5,000 available, plus free grantseeker workshops

Gardiner Dairy Foundation, in partnership with the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR), is inviting community organisations in Victorian dairy regions – Gippsland, northern Victoria and south-west Victoria - to apply for grants of up to \$5,000.

The annual Gardiner Dairy Foundation Community Grants Program is delivered through FRRR, which has partnered with Gardiner Dairy Foundation for the past 19 years.

Grants are made available to registered not-for-profit groups and can be used for a wide variety of community activities including community arts, health and wellbeing, environment, infrastructure, education, history and much more.

To assist community groups in preparing their grant applications, Gardiner Dairy Foundation and FRRR are running free grant seeker workshops in each of the three Victorian dairy regions. A webinar will also be hosted. (see details below). These workshops provide invaluable advice on how to put together a competitive grant application.

In 2021 Gardiner Dairy Foundation will make available a total funding pool of \$120,000. Since launching the program with FRRR in 2002, Gardiner Dairy Foundation has distributed almost \$2 million to Victorian dairy communities and has supported a total of 471 projects.



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SVS FEE FOR SALE

PALMERS SUPER IDEA
THE GREAT WESTERN DRIVE

MOUNTAIN CATTLE CO.
THE BIG RED

PICTURED @ 2015
RATTLE OF THE HORSES
BRIMBY CATCH

NOVICE, LADIES & OPEN DRAFT CHAMP
OPEN STOCKMANS CHALLENGE FINALIST
SIRE: BINNIA IMPRESSIVE DESTINY
DAM: PALMERS SUPERS, WINNER PARADISE LAGOONE

COURTESY

A black dog is running across a grassy field towards the camera. In the background, there is a dense forest of tall trees and a small body of water. A fence line runs across the middle ground.

For sale:
1 x Service fee to the purebred Australian Stock Horse stallion, Palmers Super Idea.
Valid for the 21-22 breeding season.
Won by a non riding MCAV member during a members draw. \$500. Worth \$1100.
Contact John : 0439 999 233 / jdixon52@yahoo.com

THE YARNER



Hayley Hinton in Brumby Challenge

Perhaps you recognize her as the winner of the 2019 MCAV Ladies Challenge, or maybe you've seen her face at any number of other challenges; Man from Snowy River, King of the Ranges or Battle on the Bidgee.

It doesn't matter where you know her from, there is no mistaking Hayley Hinton is a horsewoman on the rise.

Most recently Hayley has been involved with the Australian Brumby Challenge, where 20 trainers were given 100 days to work their magic on a brumby caught in the High Country.

Hayley found herself with 7-year-old Dallas, a chestnut mare trapped by Parks Victoria on the Long Plain on Kosciuszko.

VBA Dallas is a flaxen chestnut mare with a big blaze and was first caught in 2017 where it was discovered she was pregnant with a colt foal at foot.

After weaning, Dallas was given a further 12 months to rest before finding her way to Hayley's place.

"She was pretty tough at the start," Hayley explained.



"We were drawn brumbies out of a hat to make it fair, but a seven-year-old mare would not have been my ideal pick."

Dallas isn't Hayley's brumby – she has been catching, breaking and selling wild horses for years.

"You'd be surprised how many end up as great kids ponies," she said.

"They are always tough in the beginning, but if you're firm and give them a feed and drench they come around and love you pretty quick."

Hayley wanted to be part of the Australian Brumby Challenge to showcase to the nation that wild horses deserve a second chance.

"The final was supposed to be held at Equitana, which was cancelled due to Covid, but I'm still hoping more people realized what great horses' brumbies make."

With a public final cancelled, each trainer involved has now been asked to make two four-minute videos promoting their finished horse.

"Dallas has gone from a cranky, fiery very opinionated mare to a sweet, fun little pocket rocket," Hayley said.

"I have had so much fun helping this mare get to where she is now and hope that I have shown a few people that brumbies in the right hands are better than the dog meat truck."

The final results are yet to be announced, but with Hayley intending to purchase Dallas herself there is no doubt that both mare and rider have already won, if not a trophy then each other's hearts.



THE YARNER

Get to know a Grazier

Name: Cassandra McCormack

Position on the MCAV Board: Mansfield Branch Delegate and Get Together Co-Ordinator

Where is your farm/grazing lease located: My family run cattle in the King River area, below Mt Cobbler in North East Victoria.

Tell us a bit about your farming operation: I'm not going to lie, my Dad and brother are in charge of all things farming while I'm in charge of the office that keeps the bills paid and the utes registered!

Why do you choose to be part of the MCAV: I never really understood our family history or our heritage growing up, and I think that's the case for many young people. You just take it for granted. But you reach a certain age, or maybe it's when you have children of your own, and suddenly how you came to be who you are is important—a few years ago I moved back home to Merrijig and realized how lucky we were to have this incredible connection to the landscape around us, and I want to make sure it's all still there for my daughter to be a part of as well.

Cattleman or cattlegirl: I don't think it matters. I don't associate the word cattlegirl as being a male, but as being a person who cares for the High Country and wants what is best for it. I come from a strong line of women and I think part of that strength comes from choosing to be bigger than things like labels. Strength comes from the individual not the name.

Best advice you ever received: Just tell the truth. People may not like it, but you'll sleep better at night.

Worst advice you ever received: (from Dad) Horses love a good hard pat on the rump.



This month we chat to MCAV Board member Cass McCormack who is proud of her strong female line and connection to the High Country. Cass (left) is pictured above with mum Deb and sister Rhonda.

Other notes: I have been on the MCAV Board for nearly three years now, and it constantly amazes me how generously everyone gives of their time to this organization. I do not hold back from speaking my mind, and though this does make for some lively meetings I always have the best interest of the organization at heart. I think the greatest strength the MCAV has to offer is honesty, history and a clear idea of where we are headed. We can only walk that path if we do it together.

MCAV Bushfire news:

We are always on the lookout for common sense commentary when it comes to bushfires, particularly as it seems harder and harder to find!

However, earlier this year Charis Chang wrote a piece about bushfires in Australia.

The entire article can be found by using the following link:

<https://www.news.com.au/technology/environment/black-summer-why-australia-had-to-change-how-it-fought-bushfires/news-story/63d48226f4889f3e278b35c82d106904>

In the article, Ms Chang covers many topics but most notably interviews Fire & Rescue NSW Commissioner, Greg Mullins, who is quoted as saying: "Those people who say it's all about fuel reduction, well I'm sorry but you're stuck in a time warp from 50 years ago and you don't understand the issues and you're not bothering to read or digest what's happened in the climate, because it has all changed. We can't rely on traditional methods anymore - During extreme and catastrophic conditions, fires just jump over areas that are burnt or simply burn through them — they don't slow the fires down anymore."

There has been some excellent responses to Mr Mullins, including by Stuart Ellis, CEO of Australasian Fire Authorities Council. Check it out, it is well worth the read, but as it is quite lengthy we have put it on our website under the Research Articles tab.