

Mountain Cattlemen ride again

This time in Ringwood

More than 100 mountain cattlemen and supporters, including many from the Mansfield district, will ride into Ringwood next Friday in a final desperate bid to oppose the proposed government legislation to double the size of the Alpine national park.

The riders will camp on Thursday night near Ringwood in preparation for the ride.

The latest move comes following a decision by the Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria to throw their weight behind the Liberal government in the Nunawading election campaign.

Association president, Mr Jim Commins said that the cattlemen have taken this unprecedented political step because the proposed legislation would cause the eventual destruction of the mountain cattlemen and their invaluable Australian heritage.

Mr Commins said that he wished to make it clear that the mountain cattlemen were supporting the Liberal Party and their conservation policies only at this election and were prepared to take a different stand for another party on future issues.

The balance of power in the Upper House of State Parliament depends on the outcome of the Nunawading election so the fate of the Alpine Parks Bill depends on the result.

Nearly twelve months ago the cattlemen rode on horseback to the steps of Parliament House in Spring St to

make their feelings well known to the public as well as the government.

They also took part in the Moomba procession earlier this year.

Local association branch president, Mr Jack Lovick estimated that approximately 20 riders from Mansfield will participate in next Friday's ride.

He said that because of the political nature of the exercise the association's executive has ruled that the decision to attend the rally is one for each family to assess on a personal basis.

Mr Lovick emphasised that local people who had

previously supported the cattlemen in their rides and demonstrations were most welcome to become involved with them in the Nunawading campaign.

Further inquiries should be made through branch secretary, Mr John Gough.

•Shire elections

Aldred Buckland

Cr Geoff Aldred
Buckland will be a
Saturday's Mansfield Shire

Cr Aldred defeated former Howqua riding representative, Mr Len Coker with a majority of 162 votes and Mr John Buckland defeated the retiring South riding representative, Mrs Lyn Mahoney with a majority of 105 votes.

Both election campaigns were fairly low key and all candidates were at the polling booths during the day to meet voters.

Cr Coker, who represented the Howqua riding for 12 years, stood for the Central riding because he had disposed of his property

Recreation reserve works

A list of recommendations pertaining to the upgrading of the Mansfield Recreation Reserve is to be further considered by a sub-committee of Mansfield Shire Council prior to being presented to the next council meeting at the end of this month.

This was decided at last Tuesday's council meeting.