

## MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN SUPPORT GROWS

### GUNBOWER ISLAND FOREST USERS HEADING FOR WONNANGATTA

We are coming with our horses, from the central Murray River forests to make a stand with the mountain cattlemen in protest against the way in which this Victorian Bracks Government is treating the country people, our cultural heritage, and our environment.

Millions of dollars from the public purse have been spent on campaigns and advertisements to convince the Victorian people of how they plan to "save the environment for future generations". Yet since 2001 millions of hectares of our national heritage, animals and plants have been wiped out.

The campaign is led by those with 'new age' ideas who cannot see the forest for the trees and show contempt towards anyone with some common sense.

Public land that has survived out of control burn offs is overrun with cats and foxes that prey on the wildlife.

Noxious weeds grow unimpeded and invade adjoining agricultural land  
And, with no surprise, the rabbit is back!

It is an absolute disgrace.

This Victorian government has never been such a threat to the individual as now.  
Those wishing to continue a traditional way of life or trying to pursue certain recreational activities are under threat.

It's all about control and trying to stamp out our cultural heritage because it is seen as a threat to the state governments plans.

Arrogance, tourism and tree plantations will not feed the Victorian people.

We are not prepared to sit on our hands and see our state turn into an undemocratic republic governed by arrogance.

Today we say NO MORE NATIONAL PARKS

Contact: Audrey Dickins 03 5487 1250- Mobile 0429871250

Attached picture Audrey Dickins trains her horses for the ride to Wonnangatta



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### Media Release: Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria

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#### Mountain Cattlemen Heritage Drive Gathers Strength and Support

The **Mountain Cattlemen's** Association announced today that the small symbolic mobs of cattle that are slowly being driven across the Alpine Park by **Mountain Cattlemen**, in a protest against the taking of **grazing** licences, are to meet up in the next few days deep in the Alpine National Park. .

"The cattle and drovers are to all meet up at the historic Wonnangatta Cattle Station" president of the **MCAV** Doug Treasure said this morning.

Mr Treasure explained Wonnangatta Station was the most remote freehold cattle station in Victoria until it was resumed by the Cain Government in 1988, **grazing** stopped, and later put into the **Alpine** National Park.

"The Station is steeped in pioneering history. It is a naturally open valley surrounded by high mountains and is an intensely beautiful place". He said

Mr Treasure said before it was taken by the Cain Government, the freehold Wonnangatta Station was well managed by its former owners and is at the physical crossroads of several historic stock routes.

"The stock route from Dargo to Myrtleford, Mansfield to Wonnangatta and Heyfield to Wonnangatta all meet at the Station." He explained

"It is therefore appropriate that these historic cattle drives meet at Wonnangatta using those original stock routes and a traditional Bushman's handshake on the horses as the mobs join together at the old station site will obviously occur.

"After the cattle meet up on Tuesday the **MCAV** and the lobby group Country Voice have organized a meeting of all the drovers and supporters about 2pm. I have been asked to speak, as have several other significant people.

"I will be giving the protest full support," Mr. Treasure announced.

"Other speakers will include Mr Wally Mortimer who has written several books on the history of Wonnangatta station and the puzzling murders which have now passed into folk law

"The cattle and drovers will then leave Wonnangatta and travel over the Great Divide to the **Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria's** Get-Together, which will be held at Rose River next weekend, he said.

For media contact and more information: Doug Treasure 0427 456 353 or satellite phone, 0147 141 897.

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