

## Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria

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### *MC*AV. MEDIA RELEASE

#### ***Mountain Cattle Break the Law***

A protest cattle drive through the Alpine National Park, arriving at the Mountain Cattlemen's Get Together to a guard of honour, will swell interest in this important annual event.

Mansfield Cattleman, John Lovick will arrive with the droving team riding Johnny, his 800 kg pet Hereford bullock.

After a weekend of novelty events and races, the protest will arrive in the main arena, followed by speeches and the running of the prestigious Mountain Cattlemen's Cup

It is anticipated that over 3000 people will converge on the picturesque Rose River near Whitfield, in the States north east for a weekend of festivities and support.

Everyone is welcome. Join Cattlemen's families from all sides of the mountain in supporting their traditional get together.

Around 200 mountain cattlemen and their staunch supporters are travelling to the Get Together on high country tracks and through the famous Wonnangatta Station. Wonnangatta represents the essence of High Country Grazing and those who pioneered our nation.

But they and their unique stock horses are travelling historic stock routes through the Alpine National Park to drive several small mobs of cattle in the tradition of their forebears. It is a protest against state government decisions prohibiting cattlemen from grazing their cattle in the park

The Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria President, Doug Treasure, who is droving cattle through Wonnangatta from Dargo, said they were demonstrating about the significant loss of mountain culture and heritage.

"The cattlemen's continuous connection to traditional alpine grazing lands and to the original stock routes is essential," Mr Treasure said.

"If the connection with the land is broken, the culture is gone and then the heritage is lost."

"Continuing alpine grazing and access to these stock routes is the only way to maintain this iconic heritage."

"It is crucial to all Australians, our future generations, and to these cattle people and their families.

"A suggestion that this Australian culture can survive without a continuing connection to the traditional lands and stock routes is either vested or ignorant."

Mr Treasure said "these competent and dignified people will nurture and protect this Australian heritage and the bush environment, as they have done for over 170 years."

They will pass on their skills to future generations.

"And they cannot do this without their connection to the land."

**For media contact and more information: Doug Treasure satellite phone, 0147 141 897 or 0147 150 560**