

Cattlemen defy ban



Battle for high country

Carla Danaher and Ellen Whinnett

MOUNTAIN cattlemen have fired a symbolic salvo in their battle to resume grazing in Victoria's high country.

A small group of cattlemen defied a State Government ban to lead a cattle drive across the Alpine National Park yesterday.

Six drovers will herd about a dozen cattle across the national park over the next week, meeting other cattlemen and their families.

Mansfield cattlemen Charlie Lovick said the group would continue to fight the grazing ban.

"I think the Government thought we had rolled over and died," he said. "This will be an ongoing stand. We want a right of passage through the national park."

Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria president Doug Treasure said he hoped the protest would become an annual event.

"An annual drive would keep alive our culture and heritage," he said.

The small protest is a stark contrast to last year's rally, when 500 mountain cattlemen rode into Melbourne.

Acting Premier and Environment Minister John Thwaites, who this week announced a \$7.5 million package for the national park, said most cattlemen had accepted transition payments and were getting on with their business.

"There is still grazing in the state forests and a number of the cattlemen are now grazing their cattle in the state forest areas," he said.



Big country: Graeme Stoney (above) cracks the whip for the high country cattlemen.

Supertime: Charlie and John Lovick stand with their backs to the fire (left) at sunset.

Sweeping views: fifth-generation cattlemen Charlie Lovick ponders the future (below left).

Pictures: TREVOR PINDER



Daily cycle earns man a slice of pi

A MELBOURNE man has set a new Australian record for correctly reciting the first 2709 decimal places of pi.

Chris Lyons trained for the feat by associating digits to places he passes on a daily cycle from his North Carlton home to St. Kilda. "You have to get everything per-

fect, it is sudden death," Mr Lyons said. "There is a lot of pressure, so that is why this is considered the ultimate test of memory."

Pi, the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter, is an infinite decimal.

The 36-year-old memory whiz took two hours to break the pre-

vious record of 2189 decimal places as part of the Mind Sports festival at Mt. Eliza.

He started preparing for the attempt just last week.

A Japanese man set the world record of 83,431 decimal places in July last year.

— Emily Power

Jennifer ANISTON Kevin COSTNER Shirley MACLAINE Mark RUFFALO

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