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10/11/2005 09:55 AM

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Subject

Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria

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Media Release

30 pieces of silver does not buy heritage

"The mountain cattlemen today rejected the claim by the Tourism Minister that handing out money to support some country festivals celebrates the life and times of the alpine cattlemen."

Doug Treasure, the President of the Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria said, "The only celebration we want is for the return of alpine grazing to the Alpine National Park.

"We acknowledge that \$5000 will be supporting the 2006 Get-Together at Rose River but would give this back in an instant in return for alpine grazing.

"Many people in the country and the city will be appalled that the Government, which still has blood on its hands after killing off the Man from Snowy River, now wants to put money into remembrance events.

"This handing out of money will be seen as the Government trying to buy its way out of a very bad decision. The fact is that it will remind people of this disastrous and unpopular decision and stir up emotions and resentment once again.

Doug Treasure said, "We should put one issue to rest. Alpine grazing will not be preserved by having cattle on State Forest licences. We totally reject the notion that alpine grazing continues to exist on the lower elevation State Forest licences outside the Alpine National Park. Sure there are some cattle there but the jewels of alpine grazing are the alpine meadows in the Alpine National Park. These alpine meadows are the genesis of alpine grazing and will always remain the home of alpine grazing.

"The Association recently confirmed its policy to strongly support the return of alpine grazing to the Alpine National Park. We are confident that the pendulum will swing in our favour again as the community progressively realises that we can cherish the earth simultaneously with the sustainable and sensitive utilisation of its resources

"The Association's annual Get-Together will be held on Friday 13, Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 January 2006. The location is at Rose River which is near Whitfield and Cheshunt. We urge anyone and everyone to come along and join one of the few remaining high country traditions.

"People wanting more information should see our website at mcav.com.au. This site will be regularly updated with information.

For more information, Doug Treasure 0427 456 353