



## MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

### WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Over the past decades Governments have withdrawn Alpine grazing from large parts of the High Country.

This was done in favour of Reference areas, National Parks, or Ski Resorts. The acceptance in 1982 of the Land Conservation Council's recommendations saw yet another 10% of our mountain heritage institutionalised into National Park, thereby further depriving all Victorians of the freedom that the High Country has offered for generations.

NOW WE ARE FACED WITH FURTHER LEGISLATION AND WE HAVE ALL GIVEN ENOUGH

We must all oppose the current legislation to create a massive National Park, taking in practically all the Victorian Alpine region, the remoteness and undeveloped beauty of which Victorians have enjoyed for five generations. Government policy states that the Cattlemen will continue to use this National Park once declared. This is not seen as possible at all, as the use of horses and various other activities which are an integral part of grazing directly oppose the basic principals of a National Park.

To introduce a National Park concept must require the removal of the Cattlemen, horse tour operators and most other forms of private recreation as we know it today.

THE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED DECISION OF A CONTIGUOUS NATIONAL PARK WILL HAVE LONG RANGE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY. WE ALREADY HAVE LARGE ALPINE NATIONAL PARKS - WE DO NOT NEED, NOR CAN AFFORD ANY FURTHER EXTENSION.

Despite conservation group claims, we believe that the majority of Victorians oppose further extensions to the Park system and the Cattlemen have decided to make a stand on the issue.

The Cattlemen know and understand the mountains better than any other group in Victoria. For 150 years they have been voluntary rangers, caretakers, rescue service and close friend to all who use the High Country. The Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria is making this stand on behalf of all recreational interest groups but they need your help.

#### REASONS TO SUPPORT THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN ON THIS ISSUE -

The removal of cattle from the High Plains will allow vermin such as feral horses, rabbits and hares to go unchallenged and multiply.

Cattlemens local knowledge is invaluable in the field of search and rescue and their huts are equally of value for refuge.

Cattle keep tracks open to allow visitors pleasant and easy access from roadways into the bush.

Scientific study confirms that grazing improves wildflower display.

Mountain Cattlemen provide a living link with Victoria's rich heritage and this link should be preserved.

Mountain Cattlemen support each individual's right to recreational use of the High Country.

#### SOME FREQUENT CLAIMS & COMMENTS

- . Cattle damage moss beds and water catchments
- Recent university research has exploded the myth of moss bed damage. This and many other myths have been grossly exaggerated by the conservation movement.
- . Cattle contaminate drinking water.
- Cattle eat vegetation only. Carnivorous eating animals (foxes, dingos and birds) present a far greater risk to humans, with hydatids, worms and hepatitis. Cattle do not transmit these diseases.
- . Cattle damage soil composition with disturbance from hooves.
- Soil pressure and disturbance from cattle is no different to other animals (wild horses, deer wombats and humans). Frost heave more than compensates for the natural compaction factor in the High Country and cattle most certainly disturb the soil less than rabbits, wombats and humans.
- . Cattle destroy flora with their preference for seed heads and wildflowers.
- Completely untrue as recent university studies have shown. Cattle prefer young pasture and then move on to eating shrubs. Grass grazing removes competition from the flowers which then bloom profusely when ready. As in the home garden shrubs (such as grevillia) respond to trimming in the autumn before cattle leave.

THERE IS ROOM FOR ALL IN THE HIGH COUNTRY HOWEVER IT IS STATED POLICY THAT ONCE THIS PARK IS CREATED THE PRESSURE FROM THE ESTABLISHED CONSERVATION LOBBY WILL INCREASE UNTIL REGULATIONS FORCE US TO PART WITH OUR CULTURE, OUR HERITAGE AND THE FREEDOM OF OUR HIGH COUNTRY.

YOU CAN HELP BY JOINING THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA AS AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER.

PLEASE CONTACT:

Sue Silvers,

28 Cityview Road, North Balwyn. 3103 or

Box 294 Post Office, Mansfield. 3722.