

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT MOUNTAIN CATTLEMENS ASSOCIATION OF  
VICTORIA, MR. DAVID TREASURE, TO THE 1989 GET TOGETHER AT GIBBO  
PARK.

WE ARE FACING A CRISIS IN THE HIGH COUNTRY OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF YEARS. TEN MORE OF OUR FAMILIES ARE DUE TO BE EVICTED FROM THEIR ALPINE GRAZING LEASES.

THESE AREAS RANGE FROM THE SNOWY RIVER IN THE EAST TO THE BLUFF NEAR MANSFIELD. THE MAIN AREA THOUGH, IS THE BOGONG HIGH PLAINS.

I HEREBY ANNOUNCE THAT THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMENS ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA WILL STAND BEHIND EACH AND EVERY MEMBER TO OPPOSE THESE EVICTIONS. EVERY ACTION NECESSARY WILL BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT THEIR GRAZING RIGHTS ARE RETAINED. ANY ATTACK ON A SINGLE MEMBER WILL BE REGARDED AS AN ATTACK ON THE WHOLE MEMBERSHIP. WE ARE MOUNTING A HUGE, ONGOING CAMPAIGN TO HIGHLIGHT THE PROBLEMS IN THE HIGH COUNTRY. THIS WILL BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC THE MISMANAGEMENT THAT EXISTS PARTICULARLY IN OUR NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDERNESS AREAS. FROM NOW ON IT WILL BE A CASE OF ONE FOR ALL, ALL FOR ONE. THIS TIME THE ASSOCIATION IS COMMITTED TO A CAMPAIGN DESIGNED AROUND SEVERAL STAGES.

STAGE 1 TO SET THE CAMPAIGN ROLLING WE ARE GOING TO THE HEART OF THE PROBLEM \_ THE BOGONG HIGH PLAINS. I INVITE YOU ALL TO COME WITH US TO MAKE OUR PROTEST FELT.

THERE IS TO BE A RALLY OF MOUNTED RIDERS ON SUNDAY 26TH FEBRUARY, SUPPORTED BY PEOPLE ON FOOT. THE AIM OF THIS RALLY WILL BE TO INTRODUCE THE FAMILIES T BE EVICTED, TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THESE ARE REAL PEOPLE WHOSE LIVELIHOODS ARE BEING THREATENED

WHOSE ASPIRATIONS, HOPES, AND GENERATIONS OF COMMITMENT TO THE HIGH COUNTRY ARE TO BE SACRIFICED. THE EXCELLENT STATE OF THE COUNTRY ON THE BOGONG HIGH PLAINS WILL BE HIGHLIGHTED DURING A MEDIA INSPECTION TOUR WITH KEY CATTLEMEN.

STAGE 2 WILL BE A WEEKEND RALLY IN THE JINDABYNE REGION, TO HIGHLIGHT THE HUGE PROBLEMS OF MISMANAGEMENT IN THE KOSCIUSKO NATIONAL PARK. THIS PARK IS OVERGROWN, FULL OF NOXIOUS WEEDS, A HARBOUR FOR INTRODUCED FERAL ANIMALS AND AS RECENT HISTORY HAS SHOWN, A MAJOR FIRE HAZARD. RINGED WITH LOCKED GATES THIS IS NOT A PARK FOR THE PEOPLE. IT IS A LOCKOUT. A PLACE FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC IS EXCLUDED. WE DONT WANT THIS IN VICTORIA.

WE ARE ALREADY WORKING CLOSELY WITH PEOPLE IN THE KOSCIUSKO AREA TO PUT THAT PARK UNDER CONTINUING PUBLIC SCRUTINY AND CRITICISM. WE WILL MAKE SURE THAT KOSCIUSKO CAN NEVER AGAIN BE HELD UP AS A CONSERVATION MODEL FOR THE VICTORIAN HIGH COUNTRY. THAT PARK IS A DISGRACE.

STAGE 3 INEVITABLY OUR CAMPAIGN MUST CULMINATE AND BE WON IN MELBOURNE, THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT - THE PLACE WHERE DECISIONS ARE MADE. WE WILL BE GOING TO MELBOURNE AND WE WILL BE GOING IN FORCE.

OUR CAMPAIGN THROUGHOUT WILL BE ADDRESSING THE RAPIDLY EMERGING THREAT OF WORLD HERITAGE LISTING OF THE AUSTRALIAN ALPS. IN AUSTRALIA WORLD HERITAGE IS A POLITICAL CON JOB. CONSERVATIONISTS WANT WORLD HERITAGE LISTING SO THAT ALL MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN WILL BE EVICTED. WE INTEND TO DEFEND OUR OWN AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE, FIRST AND FOREMOST.

TO DO THIS WHOLE JOB PROPERLY IS GOING TO COST A LOT OF MONEY.  
WE HAVE ESTABLISHED A FIGHTING FUND - WE URGE THAT YOU SUPPORT  
IT GENEROUSLY.

WE HAVE ALREADY BEEN DONATED \$7,000 BUT THIS IS NOT NEARLY  
ENOUGH. OUR ABILITY TO WAGE AN EFFECTIVE CAMPAIGN WILL DEPEND  
DIRECTLY ON THE AMOUNT OF MONEY WE ARE ABLE TO RAISE.

THIS FIGHT IS ABOUT OUR SURVIVAL AND THE SURVIVAL OF THE HIGH  
COUNTRY SO THAT IT CAN BE PASSED ON TO FUTURE GENERATIONS IN  
GOOD ORDER.

THIS IS NOT JUST ANOTHER CAMPAIGN . THIS IS THE CAMPAIGN.

ALL THESE GET TOGETHERS, THE 1984 RIDE ON PARLIAMENT HOUSE,  
THE NUNAWADING VICTORY - THESE WERE ALL DRESS REHERSALS -  
THIS IS THE FINAL EVENT AND WE WILL REQUIRE YOUR TOTAL SUPPORT  
AND COMMITTMENT TO BE SUCCESSFUL.