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## Cattlemen Gather at Merrijig

All roads around the High Country lead to Merrijig next weekend 14/15 January for the annual Mountain Cattlemen's Festival and Get Together. At least 2500 people are expected for the weekend, many camping on site.

A highlight of the weekend will be a significant pioneer parade on the Saturday afternoon. This parade is a reminder of the heritage and culture of our pioneers including the Mountain Cattlemen. Cattleman Charlie Lovick has planned the event and we can expect it will be as entertaining as those he has organised before.

When the pioneer parade is assembled in the main arena of the Merrijig rodeo ground the President of the MCAV Mark Coleman will make a speech followed by the Minister for Environment Ryan Smith. This year is particularly significant for the Cattlemen because of the controversy over the Alpine Grazing trials and the Federal Government intervention.

In the crowd will be about 15 state MP's including the Minister for Agriculture Peter Walsh. Other State Government Ministers expected to attend include Andrew McIntosh, Terry Mulder and Mary Wooldridge. Local member Bill Sykes will attend along with the President of the VFF Andrew Broad.

Both days will see nonstop entertainment in the main area which is a natural amphitheatre with a sloping bank providing a good viewing area for those attending. A poetry competition with the original section worth \$1000 sponsored by local Upper House MP Donna Petrovich will feature on Saturday. While the highlight on the Sunday will be the running of the arduous Mountain Cattlemen's Cup.

The Cattlemen's Annual Festival and Get Together is an event for families to celebrate our heritage and there are lots of activities for the kids to enjoy over the weekend. Please come along.

### **More info**

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