

MEDIA RELEASE

The Alpine Alliance



Park not Paddock ALPINE ALLIANCE

ALPINE AMBASSADORS TO CARRY THE FIGHT FOR WORLD HERITAGE LISTING

A group of prominent Australians including Bob Hawke, John Wood, Ron Barrassi, Rob Gell, Ian Kiernan and Tim Macartney-Snape, are supporting scientists, including Sir Gus Nossal, and environmentalists, to seek World Heritage listing for the Australian Alps.

The park is now eligible for listing following the decision of the State Government not to renew licenses for grazing in the Victorian Alpine National Park.

The Alpine Alliance will work together to lobby all tiers of Government and the wider community to apply for World Heritage listing. The Alliance has appointed 'ambassadors' to work with them to carry the message. The Alpine Ambassadors are:

- Bob Hawke, former Prime Minister;
- Ron Barrassi, football legend;
- Sir Gus Nossal, leading scientist;
- Rob Gell, geographer and television personality;
- Ian Kiernan, founder, Clean Up Australia;
- John Wood, respected television star;
- Tim Macartney-Snape, mountaineer;
- Simon McKeon, investment banker;
- Bruce Hartnett, President Alpine School Council;
- Tom Guthrie, farmer;
- John Ernst, Company Director, Gippsland Outdoor Training and Youth Adventures.

Charlie Sherwin from the Victorian National Parks Association said that the State Government had put the interest of 5 million Victorians before the interests of the few.

“Mountain Cattlemen can continue to graze in State forests. But most importantly, this is a victory for future generations of Victorians who will have access to a healthy national park. It's a common sense decision that clears the decks for World Heritage listing.”

“We need national cooperation to protect the Alpine National Park for future generations, and a World Heritage listing is the very best way to go about this.” Mr Wood said.

“This is a very sensitive eco-system and with a World Heritage listing, eventually we all win.”

Rob Gell said that the decision was the correct one for scientific and environmental reasons. “The sheer body of evidence stacks up in favour of this decision. For nearly fifty years scientists have been advising of the damage that alpine grazing is causing. This decision is long overdue, and most welcome.”

The Alpine Alliance is comprised of the following organizations, working together for a common goal:

- Victorian National Parks Association;
- The Wilderness Society;
- Australian Conservation Foundation;
- National Trust of Australia (Victoria);
- Environment Victoria;
- Friends of the Earth;
- Humane Society International;
- Federation of Victorian Bushwalking Clubs (VicWalk);
- Australian Plant Society (Victorian Region Inc);
- National Parks Association of theACT;
- National Parks Association ofNSW;
- Nature Conservation Council of NSW
- Goulburn Valley Environment Group;
- Friends of Angahook-Lorne State Park;
- Wonga Park Environment Group;
- Ballarat Environment Network;
- Bendigo and District Environment Council;
- Field Naturalists Club of Victoria;
- Central Highlands Alliance;
- Environment East Gippsland;

The Alpine Alliance was announced today at the Royal Exhibition Building, which was inscribed on the World Heritage List at the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee held in Suzhou, China in July 2004.

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