

HIGH COUNTRY CATTLEMEN

Celebrating the families and traditions of Australia's alpine region



MELANIE FAITH DOVE

High Country Cattlemen by Melanie Faith Dove is now released

In this stunning book, photographer Melanie Faith Dove takes a contemporary look at the High Country families proudly carrying on their long-held bush traditions, and training the next generation to become the custodians of the land.

The book photographed over two years covers Victorian, Tasmanian and NSW alpine regions, huts, families, landscape and brumbies. It documents the daily life of the cattlemen throughout the seasons with a keen focus on the cattle migration over the Summer and Autumn months. At the onset of summer, they drove the cattle into the High Country - and then, before the autumn snows arrive, muster them home to the farmland below. The cows know the run and teach the calves, passing the knowledge down. In much the same way, the cattlemen teach the now seventh generation the intimate secrets of the mountains, rivers and seasons as they tackle rigorous river crossings and mountainous terrain on horseback from a young age.

The sublime photographs in this book document the proud yet threatened tradition of the mountain cattlemen as environmental legislation strips the families of their long-held summer grazing leases in the alpine regions. The book also importantly documents the last cattle to be ever taken into the Alpine region under the Wonnangatta Trial.

The book tells many people's stories, from their past memories to sharing their dreams for their children as they take them with them on the journey to being a Mountain Cattleman.

Available for \$39.95 from good book shops and Melanie Faith Dove - Photographer

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