



Tradition: Fifth-generation cattleman Charlie Lovick gallops through the Howqua River and later has a laugh (below right); riders share bush tales around the camp fire (right)

# Snowy horsemen ride again

The "crack" mountain cattlemen from classic Aussie film *The Man From Snowy River* are back in the saddle and ready to reminisce almost 30 years later.

Words: **EVONNE BARRY** Pictures: **ALEX COPPEL**

**T**HE idea began around a campfire, beer cans in hand. Charlie Lovick, a fifth-generation cattleman from Victoria's high country, recalls the life-changing suggestion by a keen rider from Melbourne. "Over a few beers one night some bright wag said, "This country really needs to have a feature movie made about it."

Within three months a script was written and in 1982 *The Man From Snowy River* was released.

"What made the movie so special was that all those hard-riding, galloping scenes were all done by professional mountain people," Mr Lovick said.

Next weekend, Mr Lovick, 58, and those "crack" riders, who joined actors Tom Burlinson and Sigrid Thornton in the film, will be reunited at the Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria's "Get-together '09" in Merrifield, where the movie was shot.

"Tom and Sigrid are keen as mustard to get back so we can have a bit of a handshake and a beer and relive those old times," Mr Lovick said.

"The making of the movie was a life-changing experience."

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Rugged appeal: Tom Burlinson and Sigrid Thornton in a scene from *The Man From Snowy River*.

