

# CHEWTON CHAT



(a newsletter published by the Chewton Domain Society)

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**CHEWTON DOMAIN SOCIETY**  
(INCORPORATED)

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## MONDAY THE 15TH OF DECEMBER - A RED LETTER DAY FOR CHEWTON!

The one day in December when the Monster Meeting again becomes part of our living history was enhanced this year. It was followed immediately by the 150th anniversary of the Chewton Town Hall. And didn't people celebrate! Almost 30 followed Richard Piesse along the 6 km. track from Castlemaine, about 80 gathered on the Monster Meeting site to cheer, boo, applaud and hiss their way through proceedings and it was estimated approximately 100 came to toast the town hall.

MC Jan Wositzky told stories, recited verse, quoted other authors and even sang and used his banjo to help set the scene in a most entertaining and informative way. Guest speaker Marjorie Theobald gave a detailed account of her family's history; the generations, the characters, the dreams and the achievements. A highlight was when she was able to point to the familiar miner's cottage with the blue door and outline its part in her family history.

Then the readings began. *Contd. on Pages 2 and 3 ...*



## NEW HERITAGE GRANT

Member for Bendigo West, Bob Cameron, congratulated the Chewton Domain Society on receiving a State Government heritage grant for works at the Chewton Town Hall.

Mr Cameron said the \$4000 grant would be used to create a new display titled "*Chewton's Place in the History of the Area*", which would interpret the significance of the building and the township.

Mr Cameron said that the historic Chewton streetscapes and the environmental and indigenous history of the area would be encapsulated in the finished design.

"Chewton is an important area within the former Mt Alexander diggings, and this display will add to the tourism potential of the town as it is close to the Diggings National Park," Mr Cameron said.

"I congratulate the Chewton Domain Society for their hands-on approach to celebrating the history of the area, and look forward to seeing the completed project," Mr Cameron said.

*Photo: Bob Cameron dropped in at the town hall to tell People and Places volunteer Allan Dry, CDS secretary Bettie Exon and CDS treasurer Marie Jones the good news - a \$4,000 grant.*



## FIRE SEASON WARNING - ZERO TOLERANCE FOR ILLEGAL FIRES

Zero tolerance for illegal fires means that during the Fire Danger Period, illegal fires will not be tolerated in CFA's North West Area. Check before lighting! The decision to prosecute will be taken by police.

*From Page 1...* Speeches from the original 1851 meeting followed Pat Healy's spirited reading of the "A Digger" notice posted around the goldfields in the lead up to the momentous event. Toby Byrne was Mr. Potts (with the skewer in the blanket), David Major was a spirited Mr. Lineham, Rod Hadfield a fiery Mr. Booley, Steve Doxy an upright Dr. Webb Richmond and Howard Penberthy a very distinguished Captain Harrison. After each speech motions were passed so enthusiastically the MC was heard to lament the lack of public conveniences at the site!



*From start to finish (the bon voyage to the walkers until the mayor's speech) the Monster Meeting was well and truly celebrated! More impressions next month!*



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## ...AND A GREAT NIGHT WAS HAD BY ALL.

The Town Hall's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary was celebrated with great cheer on Monday the 15<sup>th</sup>, it's amazing what a bit of free wine can do! The salads were stupendous and the CFA did a great job on the barbeque, thanks Jo, Chris and Ben. David Bannear from Heritage Victoria, gave a speech which required much lubrication and the crowd, limbered up by the speeches at the Monster Meeting were very appreciative. All in all it was a great community event and a fittingly jolly celebration of the town hall's 150 years of servicing the Chewton community, and the beginning of another phase in the hall's history. The next day, we got quite a surprise to be told that the CDS was going to be given another \$4000 to help re-design our interpretive display in the hall. So there were lots of reasons to celebrate in December, and an auspicious start to the CDS project to restore the hall. Happy birthday Chewton Town Hall! Sera Jane Peters.



See  
you at  
the next  
150th?

*Thanks to the organisers, the speakers and to all who came for making these events so memorable...  
...Chewton's history is still evolving and you are a big part of it!*

*Want to see all these photos in colour?  
www.chewton.net has them!  
Plus videos of the two great occasions!*

Thanks to Appletown Party Hire and Party Shop for providing the wine glasses to celebrate the 150th, and to Chewton CFA for lending their barbecuing skills.

*If you aren't already a member of the Chewton Domain Society there isn't a better time to join!  
Only \$5 per year with no joining fee...  
...see how to on page 26 of this Chat.*

Thanks to Andrew Pattison of Burke & Wills Winery for supporting Chewton's celebration of the Town Hall's 150th.

**CELLAR DOOR Weekends until Jan 18**

*Rare opening for 6 weekends of the festive season!  
Burke & Wills Winery will be open for cellar door on weekends until Jan 18.*

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