



## Monster Meeting Day

The 161st anniversary of the Monster Meeting saw the rain clouds disappear as marchers assembled at the Red Hill Hotel. After distributing flags, Phil Hall led a colourful procession along the Pyrenees Highway. Jim Evans from the Bendigo Historical Society was prominent with the distinctive Red Ribbon Rebellion flag, and took centre stage when there was a pause for photos near the highway's flagpole.

At the site Phil took the microphone as the MC of proceedings. Doug McCann was guest speaker and in an entertaining and enthralling speech told of the influence of the Victorian goldfields.

Various speech readers read from the original speeches that were recorded in the Argus, delivering them with passion and often provoking audience reactions. Doug Ralph traditionally has the role of allocating the speeches and he really does select wisely.

After the speeches Jan Wositzky and his banjo took over the stage and was joined by Merryn Lamb and Danny Spooner to bring the show to a close. After several photos were taken the walk back to the hotel began, this time down the track along Forest Creek. Parks Victoria had mowed this path in preparation for this day.

The Red Hill's Beer Garden was the setting for a delightful BBQ which marked the end of a big weekend for Chewton.

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**Chewton Unite** ... will be announcing some exciting initiatives in the coming months.

Next meeting of the committee will be Tue 22nd Jan 7pm

151 Main Rd Chewton

Want to be involved? call Richard 0407517272



### KENTOKAN KARATE

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*Photos of the Monster Meeting Day. The centre photo and the two below right were courtesy of Rhonda Joyce and that superb Olympus referred to on page 3.*



## Services at St. John's in January

Almost January is **December 30th. St. John's Day**  
A 10.30 eucharist with a bring to share picnic after.

**Sunday 6th. January** is the lovely Feast of the Epiphany  
- the feast of the Wise Ones.

Bronwen Machen, former councillor, will speak at  
**Castlemaine at 10.30**

**Sunday 13th. January 9.15 Morning Prayer**  
Carole Broughton speaking

**No service 27th. January** because we are baptising Father Andrew's  
new baby at Daylesford this day.

Ken Parker.



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# Monster Meeting Celebration thank-yous...

From the time the Monster Meeting Song Award was so successfully run and won in 2010 it seemed silly not try to capitalise on the interest and support it generated.

Some vague ideas were formed about what might be possible and that's where it all sat - until a chance meeting with Margaret Rich of the Ballarat Reform League in the Red Hill Hotel. Margaret had brought a visitor over to MM site, it was a hot day, and as they say – the rest is history.

Several meetings followed and a proposal was agreed on. The substantial seed money for the proposal from the Ballarat Reform League Inc. gave the organising committee the confidence to go on and as the project has taken shape it has attracted many other great supporters.

The Shire of Mount Alexander and Parks Victoria, a federal government's Your Community Heritage grant, Castlemaine Goldfields Ltd., Castlemaine Lions Club and FOMAD all came forward – and the Ballarat Reform League Inc even increased their contribution.

Crowd funding was successfully tried through Pozible.com and through Pozible the project picked up many more supporters and another two great sponsors – Mooroolbark Excavations and Peter Moloney.

And the extremely valuable volunteer and cost free contributions made during the journey must be acknowledged.

- The fabulous, constant and pressured design work by Geoff Hocking.
- The printing services provided by the Castlemaine Copy Centre crew.
- The publicity generated by our local papers and community radio station – and ABC Centralvic who featured the MM as the album of the week as well as providing our MC at the Theatre Royal.
- The support of the Tourism Services Unit based in the Castlemaine Market Building.
- David and Sarah for providing the Theatre Royal as they did for the Song Award.
- The decorators of this Theatre for the Gala Concert - and all the volunteers who have constantly picked up the many pieces and threads along the way.

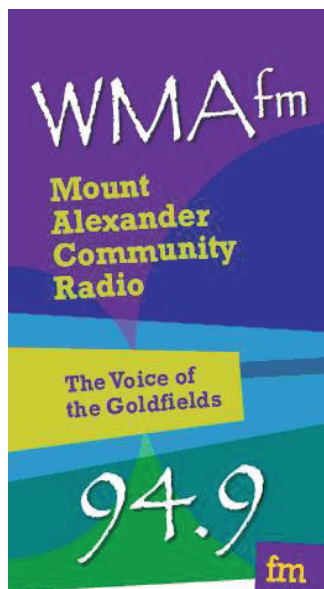
The Chewton Domain Society thanks you all – but don't let's forget it all started with the enthusiastic participation of the Ballarat Reform League Inc with the assistance of the Vera Moore Foundation.



Thanks must go to the local media who provided great publicity for the Monster Meeting this year. The Midland Express and Castlemaine Mail were consistently excellent with articles and photographs like the one here. ABC Centralvic (91.1FM) did many interviews and follow-ups along the journey. WMA fm (94.9FM) ran free ads in the weeks leading up to the event, and a lengthy interview with project director Jan "Yarn" Wositzky was on Radio National. This can be heard on line at <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/booksandartsdaily/monster-meeting/4423020> - a

long URL but one worth typing in!

And Julie Hough was at the Monster Meeting Day snapping for the Bendigo Advertiser and was caught in action by Rhonda Joyce. Thank you all!





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