

Chewtons' People and Places Collection...



On December the 15th 2018, local residents once again came together to celebrate the 1851 Monster Meeting. The forecast was for inclement weather and rather than sitting on soggy ground at the original site in Golden Point Road, the event was relocated to the clean and dry comfort of the Red Hill Hotel. The added benefit was that people could watch the event whilst enjoying the local beer and cider on tap.

Phil Hall was MC, and Jan Wositzky as the main performer held the audience with his great story telling abilities. The audience participated in singing some of the Monster Meeting songs and in feisty voices greatly enjoyed calling out "Fie upon pusillanimity".

The 1851 great meeting of diggers was a momentous event. Approximately 15,000 diggers came together to stand up for their rights which eventually led to the vote being granted to every man not just the wealthy land owners. (Women had to wait a few more decades for this right!!! And indigenous Australians waited even longer - until 1967!!!)

Back in 1995 it was through the research of local historian



Photos: MC Phil Hall, Jan "Yarn" Wositzky, Fay White and Jan with Robyn's hand-stitched flag.

I will help you find the words...

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...includes the Monster Meeting

Robyn Annear that the story of The Great Meeting of Diggers was unearthed and Robyn hand-stitched the first Monster Meeting Flag. The local community realised what an important historical event it was and there has been an annual celebration on the 15th of December every year since 2003.

In Chewton's People and Places Collection there is a documented history of how we have celebrated the Monster Meeting during past years as well as copies of the original 1800's artwork depicting the event. Jan Wositzky's book on the subject and the Monster Meeting CD are available for sale. There are photos of the Monster Meeting song contest which was held in 2010, and the book by TV personality Tony Robinson featuring the Monster Meeting, and lots more to enjoy. The Monster Meeting is just one topic in what is a large collection of written and photographic history of Chewton.

The People and Places Collection will re-open after the Christmas break on January 20th and will then be open on Sunday afternoons from 1pm to 4pm at the Chewton Town Hall.

Jackie McMaster.



Photos continued: Vaughan Greenberg, Mick Coates, Kavisha Mazzella, Jan, Kavisha and Phil.



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