



CHEWTON DOMAIN SOCIETY

(INCORPORATED)

Reg. No. A0034364L

P.O. Box 85, Chewton, 3451.

CHEWTON CHAT

www.chewton.net



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RECOMMENDATION TO THE HERITAGE COUNCIL OF VICTORIA – MONSTER MEETING SITE, GOLDEN POINT ROAD GOLDEN POINT

Further to my letter of 10 January 2017 I am writing to advise you that an assessment of the cultural heritage significance of the above place has now been completed. As a result of the assessment, I will be recommending that the Heritage Council include the Monster Meeting Site in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) as a place of special cultural heritage significance to the State of Victoria.

Notice of my recommendation will be published in the Herald Sun newspaper on 20 January 2017.

TIM SMITH, Executive Director, Heritage Victoria.

Tim Smith has prepared a Recommendation Report that sets out the reasons for his recommendation and contains an assessment of the cultural heritage significance of the Monster Meeting site. It includes things like...

- The Monster Meeting Site has a clear association with the discovery and mining of gold in Victoria, and the impact this had on the development of the Colony. It also has a clear association with the beginnings of democracy in Victoria. Both of these events have made a strong and influential contribution to Victoria.
- The Monster Meeting Site has remained substantially intact since the meeting occurred in 1851. It is located adjacent to the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park (VHR H2407) which contributes to an understanding of the event within its gold mining landscape. In contrast, the locations of other protest meetings including the Red Ribbon Rebellion and the Eureka Stockade have been significantly compromised, initially through continued mining activity and later through the construction of buildings, infrastructure and landscaping.
- The Monster Meeting Site is a comparatively intact landscape and its setting within the goldfields on the banks of Forest and Wattle Creeks allows a better understanding of the conditions and landscape in which the meeting took place than most other places in Victoria with substantially the same associations.

Special cultural heritage significance in Chewton

VICTORIA State Government | Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Herald-Sun Public Notices
20th January 2017

HERITAGE ACT 1995
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECOMMENDATIONS

In accordance with my powers under the Heritage Act, I give notice under Section 35 that I have made the following recommendation to the Heritage Council of Victoria:

The following place has been recommended for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register:
Monster Meeting Site, Golden Point Road Golden Point, Mount Alexander Shire.

The following place has not been recommended for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register:
Former German Club, 7 Alfred Place Melbourne, Melbourne City.

A copy of my recommendation report and information about making a submission to the Heritage Council of Victoria within 60 days are available at www.delwp.vic.gov.au/heritage-recommendations
If you have any queries or are unable to access the internet please contact Stella McLean on 9938 6891 or email heritage.registrations@delwp.vic.gov.au

Tim Smith
Executive Director

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“I will be recommending that the Heritage Council include the Monster Meeting Site in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) as a place of special cultural heritage significance to the State of Victoria.”

- The Monster Meeting Site is of social significance at a local level. A special association is evidenced by regular engagement with the Monster Meeting Site by community members and historians who initially researched and rediscovered the location of the site. Since then, a website, publications and CDs of original songs have been produced, and performances have been held at the place. The Ballarat Reform League Inc. has erected a monument at the place, where events are held annually on the anniversary of the Monster Meeting.

So congratulations to all those who have attended, performed, rallied, dressed up, waved flags or just provided general encouragement – look what you have achieved!

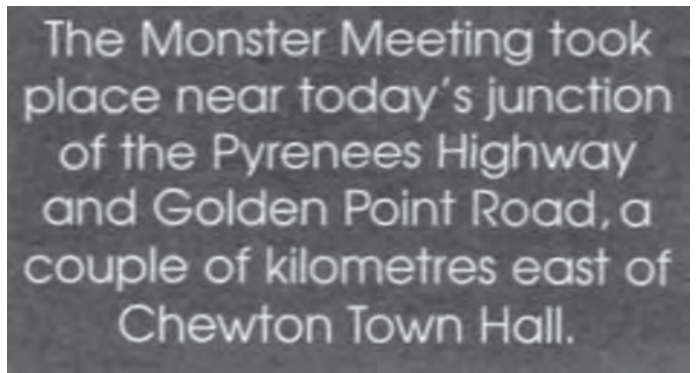
KEY REFERENCES USED TO PREPARE ASSESSMENT

- Annear, Robyn (1999) Nothing But Gold, Text Publishing
- McKimmie, Ken (2011) Chewton Now and Then, self published
- Wositzky, Jan (2014) The Monster Meeting Book, How Eureka began with the 1851 Forest Creek Monster Meeting of Diggers, Chewton Domain Society
- <http://www.monstermeeting.net/>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ballarat_Reform_League

The Monster Meeting site is shown on the map in the Tourist Information Board as the Protest Meeting. This Board was launched on 23rd July, 1994 according to the big books at the Town Hall. The map had been prepared by Geoff Hocking, and researcher Barbara James (pictured at the launch) had provided much of the background material. In 1999 the book “Exploring the Mount Alexander Diggings” was published. On Page 16 it reads “The Monster Meeting took place near today’s junction of the Pyrenees Highway and Golden Point Road a couple of kilometres east of Chewton Town Hall.” Chewton then became the beneficiary of Barbara James’ extensive research when it was bequeathed to the Chewton Domain Society. One of her documents was a reproduction of an 1853 map, a plan of land at Golden Point leased to the McIntosh Co-operative Gold Mining Co. indicating a shepherd’s hut adjacent to the confluence of Forest and Wattle Creeks. In 2005 the Ballarat Reform League, supported by the Vera Moore Foundation, installed a rock with 2 plaques to mark the site of this historic event.



Above 1994, and below 1999...



...in July 2004



...and left - December 2005!