



Parliament of Victoria - celebrating 150 years

Welcome to our first newsletter detailing developments on Parliament's 150th anniversary celebration.

1856 - 2006

In 1856, the new Parliament officially opened as the seat of democracy in Victoria.

In 2006, the Parliament of Victoria will proudly celebrate 150 years. Parliament plans to celebrate with a series of activities.

The official launch of the anniversary year will be held on Thursday 17 November 2005 at the **regional sitting** of the Legislative Assembly in Geelong and the Legislative Council in Colac.

Parliament on tour

During the anniversary year, Parliament will go on tour throughout Victoria with an interactive multimedia travelling display.

The exhibition will feature an informative walk through Parliament's history and functions; showcasing Parliament's treasures, events and the characters that have been part of 150 years of democratic history in Victoria.

Parliament plans to exhibit the travelling display in nine regional and two metropolitan areas during the anniversary year. The exhibition will be launched in Castlemaine in November 2005.

For more information on the exhibition locations or display dates go to <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/150th/exhibition.asp>

A snapshot from Parliament's 150 year history . . .

Peter Lalor became an Australian legend at Eureka Stockade. But did you know he was a Member of Parliament for more than 30 years?

From Irish landed gentry, he was the son of a member of the House of Commons and a civil engineer . . .

Lalor arrived in Port Phillip in 1852 and worked on the Melbourne to Geelong railway. It was at the diggings in Ballarat that he played his part in history by leading the miners at Eureka Stockade.

During the uprising Lalor was shot in his left shoulder; consequently his arm was amputated.

Following Eureka Stockade the numbers in the Legislative Council were increased to include representatives from the goldfields; Lalor was one of those representatives.

When the first Parliament under the new *Constitution* was elected in 1856, Lalor became a member of the Legislative Assembly; for more than 30 years he held seats in the Ballarat and Geelong regions.

Lalor was appointed Speaker in 1880; his knowledge of parliamentary practice, his impartiality and his firmness won him respect.

In 1887, ill-health led Lalor to resign from his position as Speaker and take leave from Parliament. He was still a member when he died in 1889.

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For more information on the 150th anniversary celebration visit the website:
<http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/150th/>