



Bills Bells & Ballots

150 years of Victoria's Parliament

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DAYS TO GO!

Bills, Bells and Ballots, is an interactive travelling exhibition that will feature 150 years of Victoria's Parliament.

The exhibition will provide an informative and engaging walk through Parliament's history; showcasing the events, ideals and people who have helped shape democracy in Victoria.

It is hoped that visitors to the exhibition will learn more about what goes on in Parliament and discover that Parliament is more than just a tremendous

example of 19th century architecture.

Parliament plans to exhibit the travelling display in nine regional and two metropolitan areas during the anniversary year.

The travelling exhibition will be launched in Castlemaine on Wednesday 23 November 2005.

The November launch coincides with the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of the *Constitution Act 1855*. The *Constitution* provided for two houses of Parliament, a Legislative Council and

Legislative Assembly – when Victoria became self-governing.

The regional townships that have been invited to participate in the exhibition are; Ararat, Bairnsdale, Castlemaine, Mildura, Morwell, Portland, Shepparton, Warracknabeal and Wodonga.

Listed below are the dates and venues for the tour, make sure you take note when it is in your area!

Point of interest:

Each edition of the **150th newsletter** will contain a snapshot of Victoria's democratic history and stories of characters and events that have shaped the foundations of Parliament's 150 years of service.

Did you know that the majority of Parliament House was built in stages between 1855—1930? And like the democratic system, the structure is still evolving today? Both institutions are embodied by a diverse history and a legacy of reform and development.

Dates for Bills, Bells and Ballots
150 years of Victoria's Parliament

- Castlemaine**
Sat. 19 Nov – Sun. 18 Dec 05
- Portland**
Mon. 16 Jan – Fri. 10 Feb 06
- Ararat**
Sat. 18 Feb – Mon. 13 March 06
- Mildura**
Sat. 18 March – Mon. 17 April 06
- Warracknabeal**
Sat. 22 April – Sun. 14 May 06
- Shepparton**
Sat. 20 May – Sun. 11 June 06
- Melbourne — Queen's Hall**
Mon. 19 June—Sun. 30 June 06
- Wodonga**
Sat. 15 July— Sat. 5 Aug 06

- Bairnsdale**
Mon. 14 Aug – Fri. 1 Sept 06
- Royal Melbourne Show, Ascot Vale**
Thurs. 14 Sept – Sun. 24 Sept 06
- Morwell**
Sat. 30 Sept – Sun. 22 Oct 06

Note: For venue information please see the 150th anniversary website;
www.parliament.vic.gov.au/150th/exhibition.asp

OUR LEADERS

William Haines
 1810 -1866



William Haines was Victoria's first Premier, he served between 1856-1857. Before becoming Premier William Haines was both a surgeon, in his native England, and a farmer.

Dates for your diary

150th anniversary celebration initiatives and important dates for your diary

Open Day 2006

Sunday 25 June

The 2006 Open Day at Parliament House provides an opportunity to see inside the historic building and find out what goes on inside!

The focus for the Open Day will be *150 years of the Parliament of Victoria*.

Saturday 25 November 2006 marks 150 years since the official opening of Parliament House

Coincidentally this is the date of the next state election.

Other initiatives planned throughout the anniversary year to showcase this historic occasion will include:

Thursday 17 November 2005

An official launch at the regional sittings of the Legislative Assembly in Geelong and the Legislative Council in Colac.

Wednesday 23 November 2005

Launch of the 150th anniversary celebration travelling exhibition in Castlemaine; which will then travel to nine regional and two metropolitan areas state-wide.

Sunday 27 November 2005

Open Garden - Parliament House

Parliament's gardens will be open to the public to wander through on self-guided tours.

February/March 2006

Cartoon exhibition – Parliament House

The cartoon exhibition will feature published cartoons from Melbourne's newspapers and political journals of former Premiers and significant political events.

Sunday 19 March 2006

150th anniversary of the secret ballot

Victoria's secret ballot was a world first. The Parliament of Victoria and the Victorian Electoral Commission will be working together to commemorate this anniversary.

Friday 21 April 2006

150th anniversary of 8 Hour Day

Celebrations will include a re-enactment of the 21 April 1856 march of building workers from the University of Melbourne to Parliament House.

Sunday 25 June 2006

Open Day 2006 – Parliament House

The 2006 Open Day provides an opportunity to see inside the historic building and find out what goes on inside! The focus for the Open Day will be *150 years of the Parliament of Victoria*.

October 2006

Petition exhibition – Parliament House

Over the last 150 years many petitions have been presented to the Parliament of Victoria; this exhibition will give Victorians a chance to lift the archive lid and view a variety

of never-before-seen petitions. Petitions will range from the quirky one-off petitions to those that have influenced Victorian legislation.

Saturday 25 November 2006

Marks 150 years since the official opening of Parliament House.

The official celebrations will culminate on this day.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

If you would like to know more about these events, then please go to the 150th anniversary website www.parliament.vic.gov.au/150th or contact Sharon Morris on 9651 8576.

Picture of the Legislative Council, Melbourne Victoria, 1856
Sketched by William Strutt.
From the Parliamentary Library collections, Parliament of Victoria.



Snapshot

A cautious beginning

DEMOCRACY IN VICTORIA

In the beginning . . .

Victoria's parliamentary history begins more than 150 years ago in 1851.

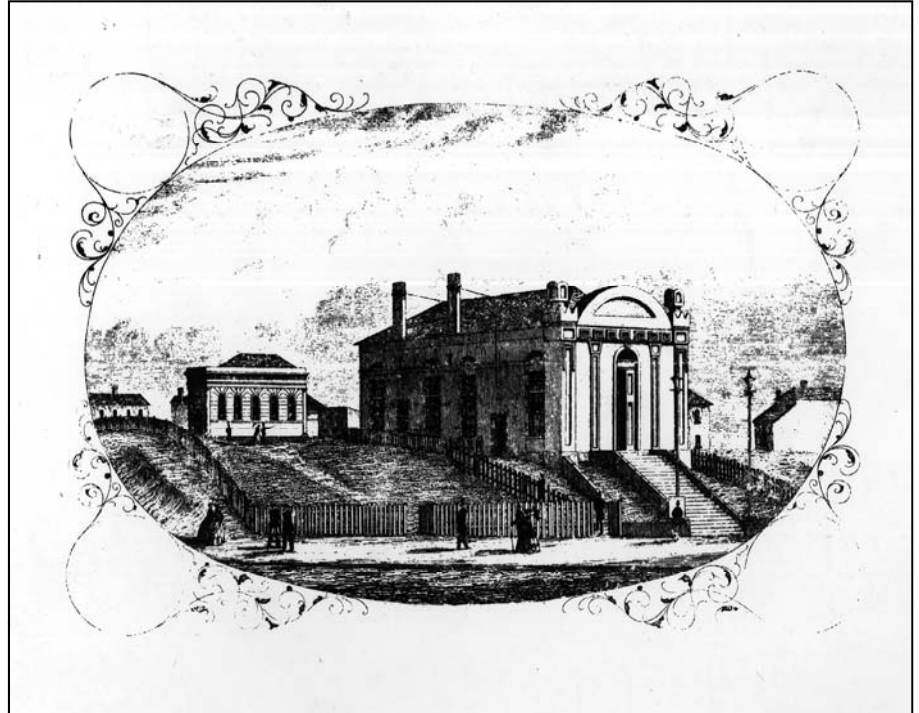
From 1836 until 1851 the region that is now Victoria was called the Port Phillip District of New South Wales. It was administered from Sydney.

Between 1851 and 1856, and after official separation from NSW was confirmed, Victoria was governed by a single-chamber, the Legislative Council. This body met in St Patrick's Hall, Bourke Street, Melbourne.

Democracy looked very different to what it does today. In the 1850s the Queen was still effectively running Victoria through Lieutenant Governor La Trobe and the Legislative Council of the time.

While the Legislative Council struggled in these days of social, economic and political upheaval, it still managed to make three significant contributions to Victorian democracy: it devised the secret ballot; it drafted the Constitution of Victoria; and it began construction of Parliament House.

In the early 1850s the creation of Parliament House, like the Constitution, was only a vision. Who would have guessed that in 1856 it would take just 10 months to build two chambers on Spring Street and officially open Parliament House? The start of an enduring democracy in Victoria . . .



St Patrick's Hall, Bourke Street, Melbourne 1851



Just one of the many design sketches of the proposed Parliament House Building, including dome/cupola

www.parliament.vic.gov.au/150th

If you would like to know more about the 150th anniversary celebration for the Parliament of Victoria visit the website