

celebrate



**Inside this issue:**

- People and Parliament
- 2006 calendar
- Seeds of Democracy
- Open garden
- *Bills, bells & ballots* update
- Snapshot

**PEOPLE AND PARLIAMENT: Landmark decisions 1855-2006**

Public Record Office Victoria (PROV) is developing the exhibition *People and Parliament: Landmark Decisions 1855-2006* to commemorate the 150th anniversary of responsible government in Victoria.

The exhibition will open at the Victorian Archive Centre in December 2005 and run until the end of May 2006.

Using land as the central theme,

*People and Parliament* will explore some of the extraordinary stories of the men, women and events that have shaped our modern state and society, from the era of massive growth following the 1850s gold rushes, to the present.

PROV is fortunate to hold in its archives the key original documents that enable us today to trace the process of development of the first 1856 Victorian constitution, signed by Queen Victoria and her Privy Council. The fascinating records illustrate how the democratic process has developed and evolved over the past

150 years.

The exhibition will display the original constitution and some of the other founding documents such as the Ballarat Reform League Charter and various other Acts that helped make Victoria a world leader in the democratic process.

Stories of individual men and women and Indigenous peoples' struggles to gain access to land and various rights will be used to demonstrate the effects of the government processes on their lives and how they dealt with them.

INFORMATION VICTORIA  
Your Gateway to Government Information  
**2006**

On 23 September 2005, the Parliament officially opened at the heart of democracy in Victoria. In 2006, the Parliament of Victoria proudly celebrates its 150th anniversary as one of the world's longest surviving legislatures. In the words, Parliament's 150th anniversary is an opportunity for all Victorians to commemorate their country's Parliamentary history, celebrating the events, people and principles that have shaped constitutional democracy in Victoria.

<b>JANUARY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>MARCH</b>	<b>APRIL</b>
<b>MAY</b>	<b>JUNE</b>	<b>JULY</b>	<b>AUGUST</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>DECEMBER</b>

Information Victoria  
180 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000  
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www.information.vic.gov.au

**2006 CALENDAR**  
Highlighting the Parliament of Victoria's 150th anniversary

The 2006 Information Victoria calendar will feature Parliament's 150th anniversary. Information Victoria will release their 2006 calendar at the 2005 Royal Melbourne Show.

Collect your free calendar from the Victorian Government Expo Centre at the Royal Melbourne Show or go to Information Victoria, 356 Collins Street, Melbourne.

**OUR LEADERS**

Graham Berry



August / October 1875

Graham Berry only led the state for a short period of time in 1875. His notoriety is derived from fierce constitutional battles with the Legislative Council which would inevitably alter the mechanics of Victorian parliamentary democracy. In an attempt to put pressure on the Council, to support his Appropriation Bill (Budget), which included provisions that would see payment of Members become a permanent fixture of Victorian democracy, he adjourned the Assembly for a fortnight, halting parliamentary business.

## THE PEOPLE'S VOICE

How do citizens make their voices heard in the Parliament? What does it mean to be a representative?

Who can vote? Who can stand as a candidate? What is the best and fairest method of voting? What techniques are there for making the Parliament more responsive to community needs?

These and a host of similar questions have energised parliamentary debate for 150 years.

If you want to know the answer to these questions and many more you will need to visit one of the following locations that *Bills, Bells and Ballots* will be visiting throughout 2005—2006:

### *Castlemaine*

19 November – 18 December 05

### *Portland*

16 January – 10 February 06

### *Ararat*

18 February – 13 March 06

### *Mildura*

18 March – 17 April 06

### *Warracknabeal*

22 April – 14 May 06

### *Shepparton*

20 May – 11 June 06

### *Melbourne — Queen's Hall*

19 June – 30 June 06

### *Wodonga*

15 July – 5 August 06

### *Bairnsdale*

14 August – 1 September 06

### *Royal Melbourne Show,*

Ascot Vale 14 Sept – 24 Sept 06

### *Morwell*

30 September – 22 October 06

For venue information please visit [www.parliament.vic.gov.au/150th/exhibition.asp](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/150th/exhibition.asp)

Watch this space for more information on *Bills, bells and ballots* – 150 years of Victoria's Parliament.

# SEEDS OF DEMOCRACY EXHIBITION

As part of the celebrations to mark the 150th anniversary of responsible government in Victoria, the State Library of Victoria will stage the *Seeds of Democracy* exhibition in 2006.

As its title suggests, the exhibition

will look at how the developments of 1856 prepared the ground for the vigorous growth of democracy in Victoria.

Nineteenth-century Victoria has been called a 'laboratory for democracy'. What was different about the way Victoria was governed, and how did the rest of the world see us?

Of course, there were halts and stumbles in the advance towards democracy as we know it. *Seeds of Democracy* will explore them as well.

The exhibition will be held in the State Library of Victoria's Murdoch Gallery from 2 June to 1 October 2006.



## OPEN GARDEN:

### Parliament's 150th anniversary celebration finale

Due to building works at Parliament over the next few months, Parliament's open garden activities will be rescheduled for the end of 2006. The gardens will be open to the public, allowing visitors to wander through and view the historical gardens of Parliament via a self-guided tour. Times and dates will be released soon.

## Melbourne Punch 19 April 1860 THE AMENDE HONORABLE

Mr Cathie has written to us to request that we will correct the errors which the *Ballaarat Times* has perpetrated in a report of a speech delivered by him on a recent occasion, and in a pretended correction of such report. Mr Cathie declares that he never said either 'that the majority of the members of the Legislative Assembly are drunken lawyers' or 'that the majority of drunkards in the House are lawyers'. What he did say was, that 'the only person who ever came sober to the House was the Speaker, but that even he had several times been compelled to give himself into the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms for intoxication, and that the only reason why he was not locked up was, that the Sergeant-at-Arms was too drunk to catch hold of him'. Mr Cathie very justly remarks that he would blush to libel the legal profession in the manner set forth by the blundering Ballaarat paper, and that he is anxious to set himself right with those of his fellow members who happen to be lawyers.

# Snapshot:

## The first pillars of Victorian democracy established

### DEMOCRACY IN VICTORIA

#### The foundations . . .

With formal separation came the need for Victoria to establish a constitution and building suitable to hold the institution that would be contained within its walls.

The period between and 1851 and 1856 was time not wasted. Two chambers, that would comprise the new Parliament, and a constitution were constructed.

The *Constitution* was drafted by a sub-committee led by Attorney-General William Stawell. By 24 March 1854 an *Act to Establish a Constitution in and for the Colony of Victoria* was completed and ready for the approval of the British Parliament and the Assent of Her Majesty. On 23 November 1855 the *Constitution* was proclaimed and responsible government constitutionally entrenched in Australia's newest colony.

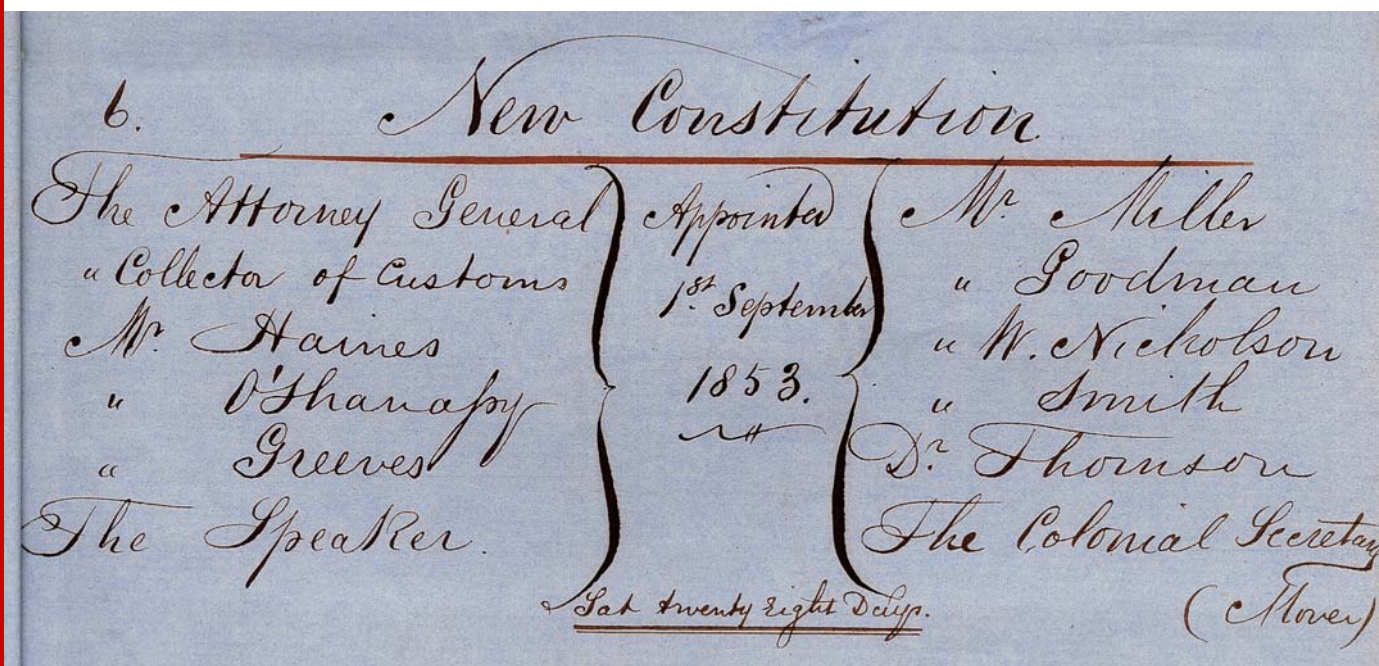
The original design of Parliament House, drafted by Charles Pasley was approved in April 1854, and after some debate so was the site of the now iconic building.

With receipt and proclamation of Victoria's first constitution came pressure to complete at least two chambers capable of housing the new Parliament.

John Knight and his business partner Peter Kerr, associates of Charles Pasley, were charged with responsibility for overseeing the construction – a feat they achieved in a remarkable time frame.

By November 1856, less than 12 months after construction had begun, both the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council were ready for use.

Victoria now had a *Constitution* proclaiming and embedding responsible government and two chambers from which democracy could be conducted



The list of the Select Committee for the New Constitution. It is from a report titled *Sittings of Select Committees of the Legislative Council, Session 1853-54*.

[www.parliament.vic.gov.au/150th](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/150th)

If you would like to know more about the 150th anniversary celebration for the Parliament of Victoria then go the 150th anniversary website or contact Sharon Morris on 9651 8576