

celebrate



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***Bills, Bells and Ballots***  
**150 years of Victoria's Parliament**  
State-wide travelling exhibition

Update

Two months have already passed since the launch of the Parliament of Victoria's 150th celebrations and the travelling exhibition has made its second stop, this time in Portland. Following a successful visit to Castlemaine, *Bills, Bells and Ballots* – 150 years of Victoria's Parliament made a brightly coloured entrance at the Portland Civic Centre last month, where it will stay until Friday 10 February.

Feedback about *Bills, Bells and Ballots* so far has been extremely positive, particularly from teachers who have accompanied school groups to the exhibition in Castlemaine and Portland. A stand-out comment worth noting is this:

*It was an excellent exhibition and it was great that it could be taken to regional areas. It is so expensive and time-consuming taking students to Melbourne. Most likely we wouldn't have seen the exhibition if it hadn't been taken to our community. So thank you.*

The next destination for *Bills, Bells and Ballots* is Ararat, where the exhibition will be hosted by the town's Art Gallery from 18 February until 13 March 2006, before heading to Mildura in mid-March. The exhibition will be on the road until November 2006, so for more specific information including dates and opening hours for all remaining locations visit [www.parliament.vic.gov.au/150th](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/150th) and go to the travelling exhibition page.

**150 years of political cartoons**

As part of the Parliament's 150th anniversary celebration, a cartoon exhibition will be held at Parliament House from 6 to 31 March. Featuring published cartoons of former Victorian Premiers and significant political events from Melbourne's newspapers and political journals, the exhibition will provide a snapshot of Victorian politics since 1856. Sources include *Melbourne Punch* (late 1800s and early 1900s), *The Age*, *The Herald* and various political journals. The exhibition will be held in Queen's Hall of Parliament House and will be open from Monday to Friday, from 9am until 4.30pm each day.

**OUR LEADERS**

Sir Alexander James Peacock

Premier:  
Feb 1901—June 1902  
June 1914—November 1917  
April 1924—July 1924

Sir Alexander James Peacock— or 'Kookaburra' as he was more widely known due to his infectious and pneumatic laugh – was Premier of Victoria on three separate occasions between 1901 and 1924. He was jovial and popular and also an astute parliamentarian. He also showed himself to be a very durable politician by representing the same district for 44 years. His second term as Premier, from June 1914 to November 1917, incorporated a large period of the First World War during which 19,000 Victorians lost their lives. In 1928 he was elected Speaker, a position he held until his death in 1933. His widow Millie (Lady Peacock) won the by-election after his death, becoming the first female member of the Legislative Assembly.



## Choosing your representative

Elections are essential to democracy: they are the people's voice. Today we take it for granted that Victorians may vote after turning 18 years of age. This was not always the case. Could you have voted in Victoria's first parliamentary elections of 1856? To vote you must be able to answer YES to each of the following questions:

Are you MALE?

Are you aged 21 YEARS OF AGE or older?

Can you READ and WRITE?

Do you own PROPERTY worth £50 (equivalent to approximately \$50,000 today) or have an annual SALARY of £100 (equivalent to approximately \$5,800 today)?

Are you eligible to vote in 2006?

To vote you must be able to answer YES to each of the following questions:

Are you aged 18 YEARS OF AGE or older?

Are you an AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN?

Are you a VICTORIAN?

Part of the Parliament's history is the story of how the right to vote was made more democratic. Want to find out more? Visit Parliament's travelling exhibition; *Bills, Bells and Ballots* at one of the following locations:

### 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 – 30 June 06

### Wodonga

15 July – 5 August 06

### Bairnsdale

14 August – 1 September 06

### Royal Melbourne Show

21 September – 1 October 06

### Morwell

6 – 25 October 06



**EIGHT HOUR DAY**

Celebrate 150 years of work, rest & play

**Celebrate 888**

150 years ago workers struggled to gain the Eight Hour Day. On 21 April 1856, stonemasons and building workers marched through the city of Melbourne. Gathering supporters on the way, they headed to Parliament to demand regulated working hours with no loss of pay. Their demands were granted, and today, the eight-hour working day stands as a symbol of the democratic rights of the workers. For more information on Celebrate 888: Eight hours labour, eight hours rest, eight hours recreation, visit [www.8hourday.org.au](http://www.8hourday.org.au)

## People and Parliament: Landmark Decisions

There is still plenty of time to learn about the extraordinary men, women and events that has shaped our State and society, from the era of massive growth following the 1850s gold rush to the present day. Visit the Public Record Office Victoria's exhibition *People and Parliament: Landmark Decisions 1855-2006* at the Victorian Archives Centre until 31 May 2006. For more information about what you can expect to see visit [www.prov.vic.gov.au](http://www.prov.vic.gov.au)

Free admission. Open from December 2005 to May 2006. Monday-Friday, 8.00am—6.00pm; also 9 January, 13 & 27 February, 13 & 27 March, 10 & 23 April, 15 & 28 May 2006, 9.00am—4.30pm.



Source: 05714-P0000-001133-colbinabbin-010-001 - a brochure advertising the Colbinabbin Estate for closer settlement in the early 20th century

## 150th anniversary of the secret ballot

March 2006 will also mark the 150th anniversary of the secret ballot – Victoria's secret ballot was a world first. To commemorate this significant event, the Victorian Electoral Commission sponsored the publication of the book *Making Voting Secret: Victoria's introduction of a new method of voting that has spread around the world*.

Written by John Hirst, Reader in History at La Trobe University, the publication is an informative look at the history of the secret ballot and how its invention spread widely. The book is available to purchase from Parliament's shop at 157 Spring Street, Melbourne and at each travelling exhibition location.

## Anniversary keepsake

Why not purchase a 150th anniversary keepsake from the following range:

Pre-stamped envelope	\$0.60
Cloth tote bag	\$2.00
Mug	\$6.50
Silver spoon	\$4.50
Key ring	\$2.00
Ruler	\$2.00
Jigsaw	\$6.00
Colour pen	\$1.50
Disposable camera	\$10.00
Commemorative plate	\$60.00
Pop-up of Parliament	\$2.00
Booklet: <i>Who stole the mace?</i>	\$2.00
Booklet: <i>Making Voting Secret</i>	\$5.00

\*All prices are inclusive of GST. Merchandise is available from Parliament's shop at 157 Spring Street, Melbourne and at each travelling exhibition location.

## 2006 COMMONWEALTH GAMES



### QUEEN'S BATON RELAY TO VISIT PARLIAMENT HOUSE

The Queen's Baton Relay will make an appearance at Parliament House at 7.49am on 15 March 2006, the day the Commonwealth Games open.

## Snapshot: Federation—early 1900s

The early 1900s was an interesting period in the democratic history of Victoria. In 1908, Victoria was the last state to allow women to vote in state elections, some 14 years after South Australia, and six years after they had the right to vote in federal elections. Coincidentally, after the huge losses sustained in World War 1 (1914-1918), Victorian women for the first time outnumbered Victorian men.

Shortly before her death in 1901, Queen Victoria gave

Royal Assent to the Bill which established Australia as a nation. The Act declared that on 1 January 1901, the colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, and Tasmania would be united and known as the 'Commonwealth of Australia'. Victoria became a state and would play a pivotal role in facilitating the establishment of Australian democracy.

The first Commonwealth Parliament was established in May 1901 with the official

opening being held at the Royal Exhibition Building in Carlton, Melbourne. This was the only building large enough to hold the 14,000 guests, with the Duke of York being the guest of honour.

The Victorian Parliament generously offered the new Parliament free use of its buildings. As a result, the Federal Parliament met in Melbourne's Parliament House from 1901 to 1927. For those 26 years, State Parliament met in an annexe

of the Exhibition Buildings in Carlton.

On Federal Parliament's move to Canberra, a sum of 50,000 pounds sterling was presented to the Parliament of Victoria as a thank you gesture. This was used to finance the construction of the North East Wing which incorporates the dining rooms and kitchen facilities.



*Opening of the Commonwealth Parliament by the Duke of York, 9 May 1901*

[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 go to the 150th anniversary website or contact the project office on 9651 8576 / 9651 8394