

March 2006

Issue No. 7

celebrate

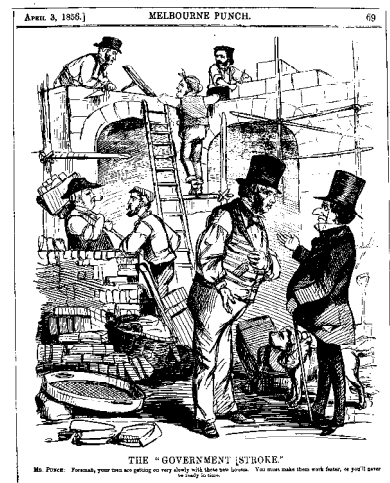


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Drawn on the issues: 150 years of state political cartoons

Political events of the day have always inspired cartoonists. The cartoon exhibition *Drawn on the issues: 150 years of state political cartoons*, which opened at Parliament House on Monday 6 March, illustrates the changes in the cartoonists' art over the 150 year-life of the Parliament of Victoria. However, issues such as late trains, Commonwealth/State funding and party feuding never seem to go away. The exhibition aims to show the events of the day through the cartoonists' eye. Although the issues our politicians deal with are serious, the process can often be quite humorous. An ability to laugh at yourself is obviously a great asset for any aspiring politician! The Parliament of Victoria is grateful for the support received for the exhibition from The Age, The Herald Sun and the State Library of Victoria. *Drawn on the issues* is on show in Queen's Hall, Parliament House until Friday 24 March and is open Monday to Friday, from 9am until 4:30pm each day. Entry is free.



Melbourne Punch, April 3 1856

OUR LEADERS

Harry Sutherland Wightman Lawson

Premier:
March 1918—April 1924



Harry Lawson remains one of the youngest men elected to the Victorian Parliament; he was only 22 when he first represented Castlemaine in the Legislative Assembly (1897). Lawson went on to become the most successful Premier Victoria had seen up until then, holding office for six continuous years between March 1918 and April 1924. Lawson's biggest test as Premier was the Victorian Police Strike of 1923, when 627 policemen frustrated by pay and pension rights as well as being monitored by management 'spooks' called an unprecedented strike. Lawson refused to give in to demands and when the strike was over he appointed a Royal Commission into the police grievances. As a result, the government increased pay and conditions for the police force, however, none of the striking policeman were ever reinstated.

Parliament's adopted ambassadors

Ever wondered about the people in distinctive red uniforms roaming the city streets? They are our City Ambassadors who are trained volunteers and answer all kinds of queries from tourists and locals alike.

The Parliament of Victoria was pleased to host a familiarisation of Parliament House for 25 City Ambassadors on Thursday 9 March, who are playing a significant role in helping to spread the word about the Parliament's 150th anniversary celebration. Wearing their 150th anniversary lapel pins and armed with promotional material about all of the events being held up until 25 November 2006, the Ambassadors are well-placed to tell people about everything from the travelling exhibition *Bills, Bells and Ballots* – 150 years of Victoria's Parliament to upcoming events at Parliament House including Open Day (25 June) and Open Garden (29 October), and a little about the history of Parliament itself.

Votes for women

Representing ALL Victorians

Although there were calls to give women the vote from the 1850s — female ratepayers were accidentally given the right to vote in 1864, a right quickly revoked — the Parliament did not pass legislation granting female suffrage until 1908. Women did not actually vote at a general election until 1911. Female candidates were not permitted until 1923.

A new woman

Vida Goldstein (1869–1949)

Feminist and suffragist

Forthright, fluent and determined, Vida Goldstein was a committed advocate of votes and parliamentary membership for women (and equal rights, industrial conciliation, children's rights, equal pay, moral living, family solidarity and pacifism). Although Goldstein never won a seat in the Victorian or Australian parliaments despite many attempts, she was an unavoidable presence in Parliament House in the 1890s and 1900s. Goldstein, more than any other, led women to the Victorian polling booths in 1911.

Want to find out more? Visit Parliament's travelling exhibition; *Bills, Bells and Ballots* at one of the following locations:

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

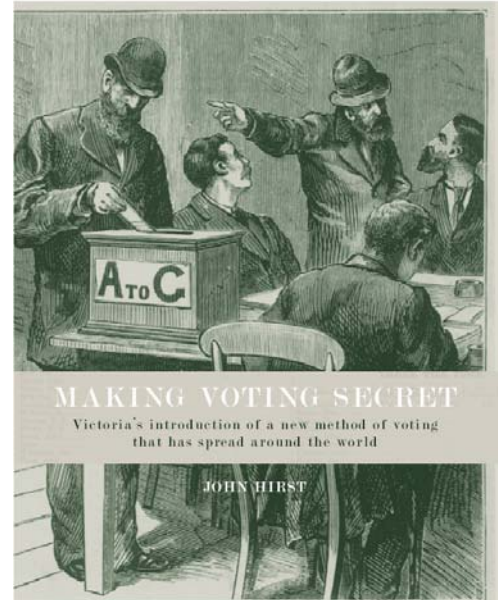
Morwell

6 – 25 October 06

For more information visit
www.parliament.vic.gov.au

Victoria's Secret Ballot: a world first!

On 19 March 1856, the Victorian Parliament passed legislation that introduced the secret ballot to Victorian elections. The architect of the secret ballot, Henry Chapman, had worked out a whole new system of voting under which secrecy would not threaten the integrity of the vote. This legislation was a world first in electoral administration. In fact for many years this initiative was referred to as the "Australian Ballot". Other state governments followed the Victorian example and in 1901 the new Commonwealth of Australia also endorsed the principles of the secret ballot. The United Kingdom shaped its 1872 secret ballot legislation on the Victorian model as did a number of USA legislatures in the 1890s. To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the secret ballot, the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) commissioned publication of *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. Colourful characters, riots, intrigue, ingenuity and even a government resigning en masse provide the



background to this world-renowned breakthrough in electoral democracy. John Hirst is an acknowledged authority on Australian political history and has had a number of authoritative works published including *Australia's Democracy: a short history (2002)*. To purchase a copy of *Making Voting Secret*, contact the VEC on 13 18 32 or visit Parliament's 150th anniversary traveling exhibition *Bills, Bells and Ballots*.



Bills, Bells and Ballots

Parliament's travelling exhibition opens in Mildura

One of the many comments the Parliament of Victoria has received from local councils who play host to the 150th anniversary travelling exhibition, *Bills, Bells and Ballots* – 150 years of Victoria's Parliament, is that it is a great opportunity for people who feel distant from the parliamentary process to see how it works. This is particularly significant and encouraging feedback given that at the outset of planning the 150th anniversary year it was Parliament's intention to have the celebrations include as many Victorians as possible. Having come to the end of its time

in Ararat, where the exhibition was well-received by the local community and school groups, *Bills, Bells and Ballots* opened in Mildura on Friday 17 March where it will be at Mildura's Alfred Deakin Centre until Sunday 17 April. Before it had even opened the door to its first Mildura visitor, the exhibition had attracted the interest of close to 300 school students who have booked in for a tour with an experienced Parliamentary Attendant. Mildura and the surrounding regions have played a major role in the State's development, so it is fitting that the exhibition be hosted by Mildura Rural City Council for the coming month. Given Mildura's proximity to the New South Wales and South Australian borders, the Parliament hopes that the exhibition will attract interest from interstate communities and school groups.



Red carpet entrance for the Queen's Baton Relay

After an epic journey of more than 180,000 kilometres across 71 Commonwealth nations, the Queen's Baton Relay was warmly welcomed at Parliament House on Wednesday 15 March – the morning of the Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony.

Baton carrier the Reverend Tim Costello, CEO of World Vision Australia, made his way up Parliament's front steps via the red carpet traditionally used only for the opening of a new Parliament. Tim was greeted by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Judy Maddigan, President of the Legislative Council Monica Gould, Federal Minister for the Arts and Sport Rod Kemp and Minister for the Commonwealth Games Justin Madden, before making his way to the roof of Parliament House. This was a particularly significant event given that it took place during the Parliament of Victoria's 150th anniversary year.



Photos by Vicki Jones Photography

Snapshot: The 1920s

Major changes occurred in Victorian politics in the 1920s and 1930s. In 1924 women were granted the right to stand as candidates in parliamentary elections. Alicia Katz was the first woman to stand for the Legislative Assembly seat of Barwon in 1924. However, she was unsuccessful and it took until 1937 for the first female to be elected at a general election when Ivy Weber won the seat of Nunawading. Ivy's arrival

in the Legislative Assembly prompted a change to a time honoured practice in Parliament. On preceding the Speaker into the Chamber, the Serjeant-at-Arms was obliged to say 'Honourable Members' rather than 'Gentlemen'.

In 1926 compulsory voting was introduced into the Legislative Assembly, with the added alteration that elections would now be held on a Saturday rather than mid-week. This was

introduced to reduce the disruption to work practices and to ensure a higher voter turnout. Compulsory voting was not launched in the Legislative Council until 1935.

The 1930s were an immensely difficult time for most nations of the world due to the Great Depression, which began with the American stock market crash in October 1929. Australia is thought to have been one of the

hardest-hit countries in the Western world due to its dependence on exports. One third of the population in Melbourne alone lost their jobs. On a brighter note, when the economy broke down, along came a hero when it was needed most by the people. Phar Lap, Australia's leading National Legend, won 37 out of his 51 races between 1929 and 1932, including the Melbourne Cup.

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