



COOPED UP: Animal rights activists Susanne Adkins, Drew Fryer, Shane Dalgleish, Heather Blyth and Warrick Fulford, protest in Moorabool St on Saturday. Photo: GLENN FERGUSON

## Caged protesters ruffle some feathers

REBECCA TUCKER

TRAVELLING around Australia cooped inside a cage isn't exactly most people's idea of a holiday, but it gets attention.

And that's what this group of animal campaigners want.

They're into week seven of a six-month trip around the country selling their message, stopping with their Human Battery Cage for two

days in Geelong and another in Torquay.

On Saturday, the group of five attracted attention from interested passers-by as they spent the day at the corner of Moorabool and Little Malop streets.

Some stopped to sign the petition the group had set up outside the cage, others just offered curious gazes.

Group spokesman Drew Fryer said their plight was an awareness raising campaign,

designed to make people think more carefully when buying eggs at the supermarket.

"It's an issue we feel passionately about, animal cruelty, it's just very widespread," Mr Fryer said.

Mr Fryer said the group also hoped to encourage legislative changes to catch Australia up to nations like Switzerland, Sweden and Austria which have banned

"the cruel and unnecessary" battery cage.

"The Australian consumer deserves to know where their food comes from," Mr Fryer said.

"Around 80 per cent of all eggs bought come from hens kept in tiny cages on factory farms. These 10 million hens each have a space smaller than the size of an A4 sheet of paper and never get the chance to stretch their wings or to see the light of day."

Members came from as far away as Brisbane, Sydney and Hobart for the cause.

They have already taken their cage to Sydney, regional New South Wales and Victoria, Melbourne and Tasmania.

After heading to Torquay yesterday, they said Mount Gambler was the next stop.

The trip is funded by animal protection groups Voiceless and Animal Liberation NSW.