

## The Legislative Assembly Lobby

The Lobby was constructed in 1867. Its original stencilled decorative scheme was restored in the early 1980s. The Lobby is used to display some artworks from the Parliamentary collection, particularly items connected with significant historical people and events. Most readily noticed are the **portraits**. These have come from a variety of sources. Some are on loan from the Mitchell Library and the Art Gallery of New South Wales. The Parliament does not have a policy of commissioning or systematically collecting portrait paintings of Members or former Members. The portraits belonging to the Parliament have either been bequeathed or donated, generally from citizens committed to raising funds to pay for portraits as tributes to the public service or significance of particular persons.

### Artworks

#### 1. Millicent Preston Stanley (1883–1955)

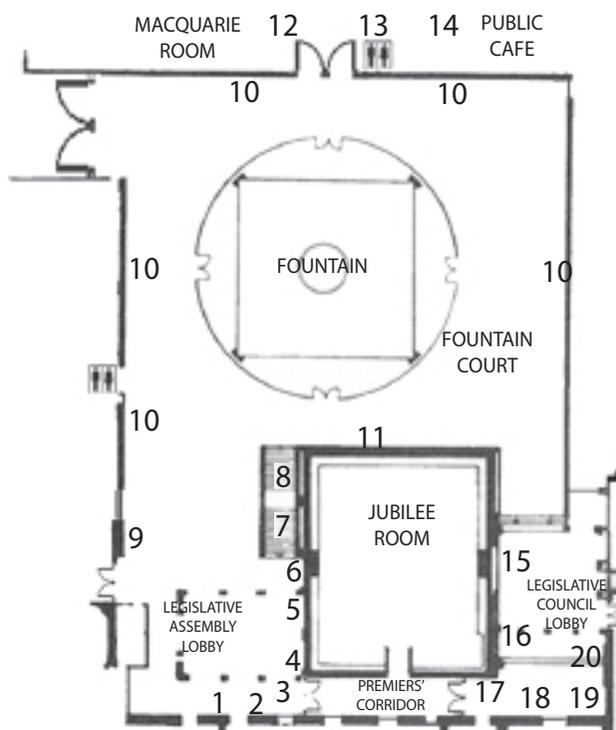
First woman Member of the Legislative Assembly, elected in 1925 for the seat of Eastern Suburbs. She was defeated in the 1927 General Election and later was active in the fields of women's and children's welfare. She later married Crawford Vaughan (1874–1947), a former Premier of South Australia. The portrait was painted by Jerrold Nathan (1899–1979) in 1951 and presented to Parliament by a committee of citizens of Sydney.

#### 2. J.T. (Jack) Lang (1876-1975)

Premier of New South Wales (1925-27; 1930-32) A notable and controversial Premier, Lang officially opened the Sydney Harbour Bridge and was later dismissed from office by Governor Sir Philip Game. Painted by Frederick Leist (1873–1945). Presented by H.C. Mallam M.L.A.



Gold pair of scissors set with opals, presented to Premier Lang on the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge in 1932.



Locations of the artworks within the public areas of the Parliament of New South Wales.

#### 3. Harbour Bridge Scissors

Presented by the contractors, Dorman and Long, to the then Premier of New South Wales, Jack Lang to cut the ribbon to open the Sydney Harbour Bridge on March 19, 1932. However, Francis de Groot – a member of the right wing New Guard organisation – rode suddenly from the military escort to cut the ribbon with his sabre. The ribbon was rejoined for the official cut. The scissors were also used – without incident – to open the Sydney Harbour Tunnel on August 29, 1992 (by Premier Fahey), the Glebe Island Bridge (since renamed ANZAC Bridge) on December 3, 1995 (by Premier Carr), and the Cross City Tunnel on August 28, 2005 (by Premier Iemma).

#### 4. Sir George Dibbs (1834-1904)

Premier of New South Wales (1885, 1889, 1891–94). In Dibbs' early career, he concentrated on achieving compulsory, secular, and free education in New South Wales. His later career was marked by his concern for the equitable protection of all sections of the community. The portrait, painted by P.F. Spence (1868 - 1933), was presented as a testimonial in 1893. Mitchell Library Collection.

#### 5. Sir George Reid (1845-1918)

Premier of New South Wales (1894–99) Prime Minister of Australia (1904–09). As Premier, Reid rather ambivalently guided New South Wales towards Federation and was instrumental in founding the technical education system in NSW. As Prime Minister, he achieved the passage of conciliation and arbitration legislation. The portrait was painted by Gordon Coutts (c.1869–1937), Mitchell Library Collection.

#### 6. Roll of Honour

Intended as temporary, the Roll of Honour commemorating the WWI service of Members and staff was unveiled by Premier Holman on February 27, 1918. The proposal to replace the Roll with a bronze version was, however, never pursued.

#### 7. Queen Mary (1867-1953)

Queen Consort of King George V. A pair to the portrait of George V, the two paintings are copies of originals painted by W. Llewellyn RA (1858–1941) and were presented in 1914 to the State of New South Wales by the British Government. They were placed in Parliament House because it was thought that Government House (then at Cranbrook at Rose Bay) already had portraits of George V and Queen Mary. This was not so, and successive Governors tried to obtain the portraits for Government House. Finally, in 1938, duplicates were painted for Government House by Frederick Leist, a famed Australian painter of the day.

#### 8. King George V (1865-1936)

King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Emperor of India (reigned 1910–1936)

#### 9. Sir Henry Parkes (1816-1896)

Premier of New South Wales (1872–75; 1877; 1878–83; 1887–89; 1889–91). Known as the “Father of Federation”, his other great achievements included the introduction of free, compulsory and secular education. Painted by Tom Roberts (1856–1931) about 1895. Collection of the Art Gallery of NSW.

### The Fountain Court

Between 1974 and 1983 a new building was constructed for Parliament House behind the restored chambers. This included an extensive central lobby with a feature fountain designed by Robert Woodward (1923-2010).

#### 10. Exhibition Space

The fountain court is also a place for temporary exhibitions and community displays.

## 11. Reconciliation Wall

As part of the Reconciliation process with the indigenous peoples of Australia, the Presiding Officers of the Parliament, in 1998, dedicated the western wall of the Fountain Court as a permanent area for the exhibition of artworks by Aboriginal people. Drawn from galleries, Parliament's collection and the artists themselves, the artworks are changed fairly frequently.

## 12. "The History of NSW"

This fabric appliqued tapestry created by Dawn Fitzpatrick (b. 1922) is one of several textile artworks by women artists commissioned by the NSW Department of Public Works for the Parliament. The commission was included as part of the 1974 - 1985 renovation and restoration of the old Parliament buildings and construction of a new twelve storey annex linked by a Fountain Court to the heritage buildings. This artwork hangs in the corridor connecting the Fountain Court with the Stranger's Lounge and Public Cafe.



Tapestry: "The History of NSW" by Dawn Fitzpatrick

## 13. "Homestead"

This painting by Graham Lupp (b. 1946) is part of the artist's Vernacular series. It depicts the driving influence of vernacular architecture on the artist's work. The painting, is an attempt to capture, or at least document, slowly disappearing examples of colonial rural buildings - in particular, unique timber and corrugated iron shearing sheds, haysheds and other outbuildings. This artwork can also be found in the corridor linking the Fountain Court with the Strangers' Lounge and Public Cafe.

## 14. "Public Buildings of NSW" Series

This series of black and white photographs by photographer Max Dupain (1911-1992) decorate the walls of the Parliament's Public Cafe. Dupain was a renowned Australian modernist photographer and this series, depicting various historic public buildings throughout NSW, is an example of his love of architectural photography.

## The Legislative Council Lobby

As with the Legislative Assembly Lobby, this area is used to display various artworks and artefacts from the Parliamentary collection.

### 15. The Founding of Australia

Commissioned by businessman Frank Albert and painted by Algernon Talmage for the 1938 sesquicentenary of European settlement in Sydney, the original is in the Tate Gallery, London. Albert commissioned this copy for the Parliament in 1939. The painting depicts Sydney Cove shortly after the landing of Sydney's first Governor, Captain Arthur Phillip who is shown about to propose the health of His Majesty King George III.

### 16. George Robert Nichols (1809-1857)

Nichols was elected to the Legislative Council in 1848 and re-elected in 1851. He was elected a Member of the new Legislative Assembly in 1856 and was Auditor-General and Secretary for Lands and Works in the first ministry.

### 17. Royal Visit Artefacts

Photographs and documents relating to Royal visits to the Parliament of New South Wales.

### 18. Sir Saul Samuel (1820-1900)

Businessman and Member of both Houses of Parliament between 1854 and 1880, Samuel was Australia's first Jewish magistrate, Parliamentarian and Minister of the Crown. A liberal and independent politician, he was Colonial Treasurer and Postmaster-General on three occasions each. Artist J. A. Vinter.

### 19. Frederick Goulburn (1788-1837)

On 30 June 1820 Goulburn was appointed Secretary and Registrar of the Records of NSW. In 1821 he became the first official Colonial Secretary of NSW working with Governors Macquarie and Brisbane. He was appointed a Member of the Legislative Council from 1823 until 1825.

### 20. The Black Rods

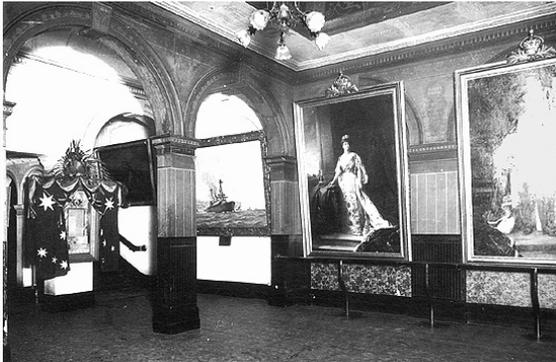
The lighted display case contains the three Black Rods used by the Legislative Council since 1856, the shorter central one being in current use. This latter Rod, made of ebony with silver gilt trimmings, was presented to the Legislative Council by the Bank of NSW in 1974. The Black Rod is the Council equivalent of the Legislative Assembly Mace, and is carried ceremoniously by the Usher of the Black Rod.



# PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

## HISTORY 4 BULLETIN

### Paintings and Artefacts in the Public Areas of the Parliament



A 1919 photograph of the  
Queen Mary and King George V  
(obscured by camera flash) portraits in the  
Legislative Assembly Lobby area.

*Please note that artworks are moved from  
time to time or placed in storage and  
may not be located exactly as depicted in this Bulletin.*