PORTRAIT BUSTS
Through sculptural portraiture the ancient Greeks and Romans honoured citizens that they had held in high esteem. Over the years this tradition has continued, as demonstrated by the 15 portrait busts presented to the Parliament of New South Wales. The busts are located as shown in the diagram opposite and most can be viewed by visitors (subject to room availability).

THE PARKES ROOM
1. Sir John Robertson (1816-1891)
Sir John Robertson was first elected a Member of the Legislative Assembly with the establishment of responsible government in 1856. Between 1860 and his retirement in 1886 he was Secretary for Lands and Public Works, Colonial Secretary, Minister for Public Instruction, Acting Premier and five times Premier of NSW. Between 1878 and 1881 he formed a coalition with Henry Parkes and entered the Legislative Council as Vice-President of the Executive Council and Representative of the Government in that Chamber. He retired in 1886. The portrait bust was presented to the Historic Houses Trust by Sir John Robertson’s family and displayed at Vaucluse House until its relocation to Parliament House.

2. Sir John Hay (1816-1892)
Sir John Hay entered the Legislative Assembly in 1856. He became Secretary of Lands and Works and was elected Speaker of the Legislative Assembly in 1862. Resigning as Speaker in 1865 he was appointed to the Legislative Council and was its President for 19 years, from 1873 until his death in 1892.

3. Sir John Lackey (1830-1903)
Sir John Lackey was an elected member of the Legislative Assembly from 1860 until 1885. He was at various times, Chairman of Committees, Secretary of Public Works and Minister for Public Instruction. He resigned from the Legislative Assembly in 1885 and was nominated to the Legislative Council. He became President of the Legislative Council in 1892, resigning in 1903 but remaining a Member of the Legislative Council until his death.

4. Sir Alfred Stephen (1802-1894)
Sir Alfred Stephen was appointed first President of the Legislative Council from 1856 to 1857 and was appointed to the Legislative Council a further three times up to 1890. As President, he ensured the Council’s role as a house of review through the manner in which he guided the legislative process. The bust is by Achille Simonetti.

5. William Bede Dalley (1831-1888)
A Member of the Legislative Assembly from 1856 to 1860 and from 1862 to 1864, Dalley was also a Member of the Legislative Council from 1870 to 1873, 1875 to 1880 and 1883 until his death in 1888. He held the offices of Attorney General from 1875 to 1877 and from 1883 to 1885, and Acting Colonial Secretary from October of 1884 to May of 1885. In 1886 his bust by Achille Simonetti was placed in the Legislative Council. He is remembered as a pioneer statesman whose contributions to the colony of NSW through his Parliamentary activities and his endeavours in both literature and the law are also commemorated with a plaque and stained glass window in nearby St Mary’s Cathedral and a statue in Hyde Park. He has also been honoured with a plaque in St Paul’s Cathedral, London.

6. Sir Francis Suttor (1839-1915)
Sir Francis Suttor was first elected to the Legislative Assembly as Member for Bathurst in 1875. He entered the Legislative Council in 1900 as Vice-President of the Executive Council and the Government’s Representative in the Upper House and was appointed President of the Legislative Council in 1903 holding the position until his death in 1915. The bust is by Nelson Illingworth.

7. John Blaxland (1769-1845)
John Blaxland was a Member of the Legislative Council on 30 January 1829 and held his seat until the proclamation of the new Constitution on 5 January 1843, when the Legislative Council became a more representative body with two thirds of the Members being elected. He was appointed a non-elective member of the Legislative Council in 1843, resigning in 1844. His brother Gregory Blaxland was part of the first expedition to cross the Blue Mountains in 1813. The portrait bust was created by sculptor Joseph Durham.

8. James Macarthur (1798-1867)
James Macarthur was appointed a Member of the Legislative Council on 24 October 1839, holding his seat until the Council was reformed as a two-thirds elected body in 1843. In 1848, he was elected to the Council, holding his seat until the establishment of Responsible Government in 1856 when he was elected to the new Legislative Assembly. He held this seat until 1859. James Macarthur was the fifth son of John and Elizabeth Macarthur whose experiments in breeding sheep for fine wool not only established Australia’s wool industry but also consolidated the economy of the colony of NSW.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER

Locations of the Portrait Busts within the Parliament of New South Wales.

9. William Charles Wentworth (1790-1872)
Wentworth was part of the first European expedition to cross the Blue Mountains in 1813. He was elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1843 and was chairman of the select committee which drafted the 1853 Constitution which was to lead to the establishment of Responsible Government in NSW in 1856. He was President of the Legislative Council in 1861 and 1862. The portrait bust created by sculptor Achille Simonetti was presented by the Government to the Legislative Council in 1894. His portrait also hangs in the Legislative Assembly. Wentworth’s father, Surgeon D’Arcy Wentworth was one of the contractors who built the “Rum Hospital”, as well as being its first surgeon.
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS’ ROOM
10. Richard Windeyer (1806 - 1847)
Richard Windeyer was an Elective Member of the Legislative Council from its first election in 1843 until his death in 1847. He is remembered for his contributions to the establishment of education in the colony and to law reform such as the introduction of trial by jury and establishing the validity of evidence given in court by Aboriginal people. The portrait bust created by sculptor G. Abraham was presented to the Parliament by his descendant, Richard Windeyer, in 1944.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ENTRY HALL
11. Sir John Peden (1871-1946)
Nominated to the Legislative Council in May 1917, Sir John Peden was the last President to be appointed and became the first President to be elected by the House after the reforms of 1934. As President of the Legislative Council from 1929 to 1946, he ensured that it would not be abolished or have its powers altered, except by referendum, by drafting and inserting this protection into the Constitution Act. The bust was created in 1949 by Lyndon Dadswell and presented to the Parliament by the family of Sir John Peden.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SPEAKER’S SQUARE
13. Sir Daniel Cooper (1821-1902)
Sir Daniel Cooper was a Member of the old Legislative Council from 1849 and entered the new Legislative Assembly after responsible government was granted in 1856. He was elected the first Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and held that office until his resignation in 1860. The portrait bust, created by sculptor Joseph Durham in 1865, was presented to the Government by the descendants of Sir Daniel Cooper.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY LOBBY
14. Sir Saul Samuel (1820 - 1900)
Sir Saul Samuel was a Member of the Legislative Assembly from 1854 to 1856, 1858 to 1860 and 1862 to 1872. He was appointed to the Legislative Council from 1872 until 1880. He was Colonial Treasurer and Postmaster-General on three occasions each, Vice-President of the Executive Council and Government Representative in the Legislative Council. Sculptor Giovanni Fontana created the portrait bust and it was presented to Parliament by Sir Saul’s grandson.

15. Neville Wran (1926 - 2014)
Neville Wran was appointed to the Legislative Council in 1970 and was elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1973. When he became Premier in 1976 a referendum was held to directly elect Members of the Legislative Council. The Bill, providing for a Council of 45 Members to be directly elected by the voters of the whole state serving as a single electorate, was put to the voters in June 1978 returning almost 83% of voters favouring the proposal. By the time of his resignation in 1986, Neville Wran was the longest continuous serving Premier in NSW. The bust was created by Larissa Smagarinski and presented by the Italian Community of NSW.

JUBILEE ROOM
12. Captain James Cook (1728-1779)
Captain James Cook was a great navigator and surveyor whose sea voyages around the world produced extraordinarily accurate maps. His reports of Botany Bay led to the establishment of the colony of NSW in 1788. The bust appears to have been in the Jubilee Room since 1905 and is a copy of an original owned by Marrickville Council.

Portrait Busts in Parliament House