



BICENTENARY STATEMENT: **LAUNCH OF 'THE IMMORTALS'**

Read in the NSW Legislative Council chamber by President Matthew Mason-Cox, **23 June 2022**

Honourable members, I invite you to cast your eyes to my left, to the newest marble bust in this chamber, being the late Honourable Virginia Chadwick, first female President of the Legislative Council. Last month, Virginia became perhaps the final marble figure to be added to our walls.

Her likeness sits beside that of the Honourable James Macarthur – then following along the wall we have the Honourable John Blaxland and the Honourable Sir Francis Suttor. To the other side of the chamber sits the Honourable William Bede Dalley, together with the Honourable Sir Alfred Stephen, the Honourable Sir John Lackey and finally, with his head turned to look directly at the President's chair, the Honourable Sir John Hay.

Altogether, eight impressive and masterfully crafted marble figures. But what is the story of each of these silent sentinels? Who were they in life? And why were they chosen, at various points, to bear witness to the proceedings in this chamber?

To answer these questions, a new video series is being launched as part of activities commemorating the Legislative Council's forthcoming Bicentenary. The eight-part series will introduce each of these 'Immortals', both to us as members and to the community at large.

The first of these videos is being released today, featuring our most recent addition to the chamber, the Honourable Virginia Chadwick.

I encourage honourable members to look for this first Immortals video on the Legislative Council's Facebook page today, and later elsewhere across the Parliament's social and digital media channels. It provides a concise snapshot of Virginia's parliamentary career, and a record of the inspiring legacy she left behind – not just as a trailblazing female member of the Council, but also as the first female Chairperson and CEO of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

Each of our Immortals videos provides a window into the fascinating history of the Council. There will be a new video released bimonthly, and I encourage honourable members to join me in engaging with the Immortals series and sharing the videos through your personal networks..

Celebrating 200 *years of democracy*