

O'Farrell is hanging in Parliament



NO OBJECTION: Barry O'Farrell and Dee Jackson.

MARY POWIS

AN antique writing slope was the article of significance Barry O'Farrell chose to include in Roseville artist Dee Jackson's portrait.

The watercolour joins others of MPs with nominated objects in the 'Parliament Objects' exhibition, which opens at Parliament House today.

Jackson said that the first time she saw the State Liberal MP for Kuring-gai and Opposition

Leader Barry O'Farrell, he was sitting at a computer.

"I transposed the writing slope for the computer."

The portrait shows Mr O'Farrell in an open-necked shirt, sleeves rolled up, at his desk.

"I wanted to paint him as if he has just looked up from his work, relaxed and approachable, to reflect his welcoming, happy character," she said.

Mr O'Farrell said he bought the small portable desk, about 20 years ago.

"I love its patina, age and style," he said. "It has the traditional secret compartment that adds interest."

Mr O'Farrell said he used to use it to pen the odd note but now he uses a modern, plastic lap-top.

"The writing slope was the laptop of its era," he said. "It was for people on the move."

Also included in the exhibition are portraits of North Sydney MP Joe Hockey and Willoughby MP Gladys Berejiklian.