

**PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS INC.
NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO: 26 March-April 2019**



Contact: parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com or PO Box 1358 Parramatta 2124
 PFFF website: parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au
 History: parramattafemalefactories.wordpress.com
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pffriends/>
 Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/parramattafemalefactoryfriends/>
 Petition: <https://www.change.org/p/parramatta-female-factory-federal-petition-for-world-heritage>



The Parramatta Female Factory - Augustus Earle 1826 – nla.pic-an 2818460 National Library of Australia (NLA)

Patrons: Meg Keneally & Thomas Michael Keneally AO
President: Gay Hendriksen **Vice President:** Heidi Brown
Treasurer/Public Officer: Kerima-Gae Topp **General Secretary/Editor:** Ronda Gaffey
Committee: **Membership Secretary:** Cate Whittaker **Minutes Secretary:** Kerry Martin
 Pauline Garmonsway, Lynette Watkins, Frank Williams, Stephen Bryant.

**Next Meeting: Friday April 26 2019 Guest speaker at 1:00pm:
 GENERAL MEETING at 2:00pm followed by afternoon tea.
 VENUE: The Coach House, Hambleton Cottage, cnr Gregory Place & Hassall Street
 Harris Park (until further notice).**

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Factory Friends,

This year is shaping up to present change in one form or another.

As you may know the film *Peter Rabbit* has taken place at the factory which means tours have virtually ceased until April. After this we can look forward to our new home. However keep coming to Hambledon for meetings until we let you know we have occupancy of the Carpenter's Yard.



Some significant concepts have been floated concerning areas around the Female Factory. One is a new Sydney University Campus which would meet our northern perimeter and part of the eastern perimeter of the Factory Footprint. The Greens representative Hon. David Shoebridge MLC, is positing the idea of a First Nations museum on the North Parramatta Precinct. Unless it is the whole site, it is consistent with our Museum of Australian Identity concept.

The Committee has been working on a 'registration of interest' (ROI) for future use of the property. We put forward the Museum of Australian Identity with a staged implementation, i.e. we move into the original buildings for Friends' Rooms, National Resource Centre and exhibition spaces as a temporary measure until the MAI is fully enacted. I would like to acknowledge all the hard work by the Committee generally for this and the particular focus that Heidi Brown, our Vice President has given to getting it over the line - great support.

I would like to extend a special thank you to our Patrons Meg Keneally and Tom Keneally, Patrick Dodd, President of the Macquarie Society and Brian Powyer, past President of the Parramatta & District Historical Society for their letters in support of the PFFF ROI.

Our petition has just topped 8,000 so please keep them rolling in! Look out for our next event activity which will be in the National Trust Heritage month.

Our advocacy is still critical so keep lobbying your local and state members for a Museum of Australian Identity on the site with Female Factory specific interpretation and national resource centre on the footprint.

All the best

Gay Hendriksen
President

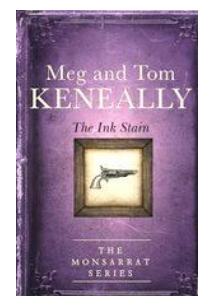
NOTICEBOARD

- **NEXT MEETING is Friday 26 APRIL. Guest Speaker at 1:00pm.**
- **General Meeting 2pm - 3pm followed by afternoon tea.** Venue: The Coach House, Hambledon Cottage. Parking on site. Access is by a short 15 minute walk from Parramatta Station or M92 bus (Bus Stand A2) at station or bus 909 (Stand B1) near Westfields, opposite station.
- **Please note change of date for April meeting** - this meeting is being held on **26 April** since Good Friday falls on the scheduled 3rd Friday of the month.
- **Congratulations** to our Patrons Meg Keneally and Tom Keneally on the release of their new colonial whodunit, *The Ink Stain*. "In this 4th book in the Monsarrat series, Hugh Monsarrat and Mrs Mulrooney are sent to Sydney to investigate corruption that may get right to the top - to the office of the Governor; and threaten the colony's fundamental rights and freedom of speech". (<https://www.penguin.com.au/books/the-ink-stain-9780143790303>)

Sounds intriguing and yet another challenge for these engaging colonial sleuths! Ed.



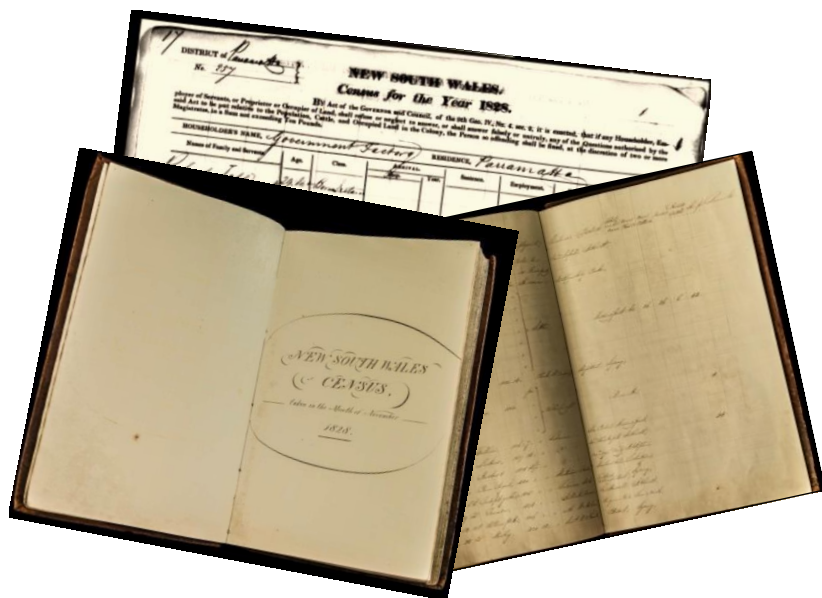
Hambledon Cottage



HISTORY CORNER - A NATIONAL TREASURE IS RECOGNISED - 1828 CENSUS OF NSW
 NSW State Records have just announced that the records of the 1828 Census of NSW they hold, are to be inscribed on the *UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register*. (1) Other documents on this prestigious register include *the Endeavour Journal of James Cook, the First Fleet Journals, the Mabo Case manuscripts* and *the Holtermann Collection of photographs*. (2)

The 1828 Census records are seminal for any researcher with about 36,500 persons listed (both convict and free) who were living in the colony at the time.

NSW State Records are in the process of digitising the material which will be available on their website soon. The "Census" will tour regional NSW from April 11 - May 29, visiting Port Macquarie, Bathurst, Goulburn, Tuggerah and Shell Harbour. (3)



Images: 1828 Census - source, records.nsw.gov.au, NSW State Records.

(1) *Now & Then* Issue 88 February 2019, NSW State Records.

(2) www.amw.org.au/amw.register

(3) The Sydney Morning Herald, Wednesday 27 February 2019, page 12.

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR PFFF COMMITTEE ! Part 2



President Gay Hendriksen: I have worked as an art and history curator, writer, educator and director in the museum and gallery environment for 30 years researching and interpreting cultural, local and family histories through publications, exhibitions, and education programs. I have specialised in women's history within Australia cultural heritage with a focus on Colonial times. Three of these have been touring exhibitions covering six states, one of which was the award winning *Women Transported* exhibition and accompanying publication. Recent projects have included State Archives of NSW, Museum Advisor for the Blue Mountains and curatorial work for Elizabeth Farm, Rouse Hill House and Farm and Meroogal. I have been researching the Female Factory since 2005.



Treasurer Kerima-Gae Topp: I am a Parramattan through and through! My family have lived in Parramatta for over 100 years so I know Parramatta extremely well. Also, I am passionate about Australian History and lucky that as a professional tour guide and sole tour operator, my job is sharing my passion! I am an active member of many history groups and have fulfilled numerous roles - I am currently treasurer for four!



Secretary Ronda Gaffey: I am a retired "schoolie" having spent over 40 years in education as a teacher, executive teacher and education consultant. I am a Female Factory tragic since discovering two great, great grandmothers spent time there. I collate the PFFF newsletter, do occasional site tours and keep tabs on publications and publicity material for our "stalls". I also guide at Hambledon Cottage and on their School Program - I am not quite out of the classroom and my penchant for story telling has not left me!



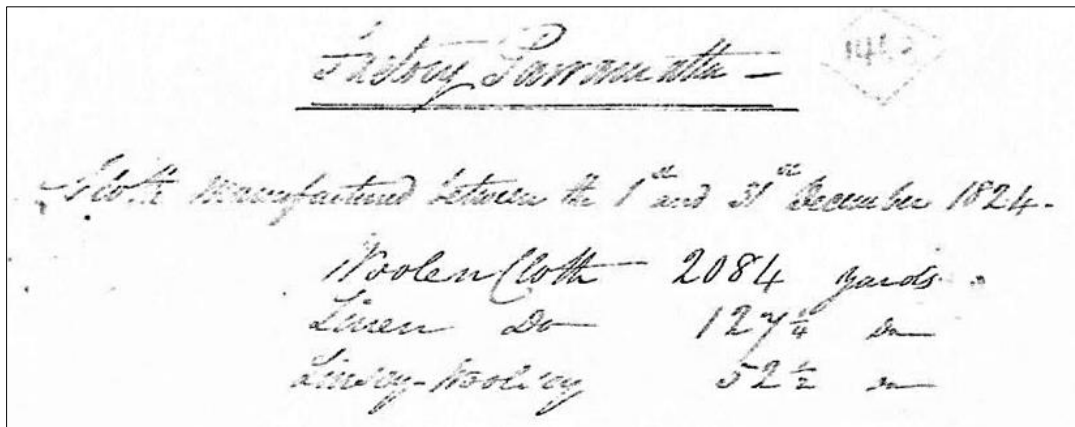
Kerry Martin: I have been a PFFF member since its beginning and served on the Committee in different roles. My interest is in Parramatta history and I am an active member of the Family History Group of the Parramatta & District Historical Society. I am also an attendee at the NSW & ACT Family History Conference which is my annual "must go" event.

"OUR GIRLS" BY BETH MATTHEWS & ANNE MATHEWS
THE FACTORY - A PLACE OF MANUFACTURE

The Parramatta Female Factory was primarily a place of manufacture and employment for the convict women. It was the first of its kind in the colony and it would have been impressive. Macquarie described it as a "commodious building...with Carding, Weaving and Loom rooms, Workshops, Stores for wool, Flax, etc. etc. and a bleaching ground for Bleaching Cloth and Linen Manufactured..." (1)

In the following document, the diversity of manufacture, the volume and capacity of production at the Factory at this early stage, is clearly evident. This return shows that in one month (from 1st to 31st December 1824), there were 2084 yards (approx. 1905 metres) of woollen cloth, 127 and a quarter yards linen (approx. 116 metres) and 52 and a half yards of Linsey-Woolsey* (approx. 47 metres) produced. (2) The total production for December 1826 was at least 2068 metres of cloth (enough to stretch the length of the Harbour Bridge and slightly further!).

(2)



The work done at the Parramatta Factory including the whole manufacturing process from washing, cleaning, carding, spinning and weaving. The Cascades Female Factory in Tasmania (c1828), modelled on the Parramatta Female Factory, also did the whole process of manufacture. The smaller Factories established later, focused on spinning.

The cloth manufactured at Parramatta became known colloquially as "Parramatta Cloth" and was principally used to make *slops* - a name given to convict clothing. Convicts were issued with 2 sets of clothing each year; the clothing was a one size fits all and therefore a sloppy fit, hence the term *slops*.

The following tenders for wool (3) and flax (4) are a testament to the role of manufacture at the Factory in the 1820s and the opportunity it presented for settlers. "One ton" of colonial flax would have been considerable. It is interesting to note the flax is required ready for spinning. (4)**

(3) **COMMISSARIAT OFFICE, SYDNEY, APRIL 18, 1822**
PERSONS, desirous of supplying the Female Factory, at Parramatta, with **WOOL**, are requested to send to this Office Samples and Sealed Tenders.
WILLIAM WEMYSS, Deputy Commissary General

Government Notice.
COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE, 9th MARCH, 1826.
FLAX WANTED.
WANTED, for the Use of the Female Factory at Parramatta, **ONE TON** of **COLONIAL FLAX**, scutched.
Persons, desirous of supplying the above, are to send in Proposals, in Writing, to this Office, endorsed "Tender for Flax," on Tuesday, the 21st of this Month, before One o'Clock.
By Command of His Excellency the Governor,
ALEXANDER M'LEAY.

References:

- (1) *The Macquarie Letters 1822*
 - (2) *Colonial Secretary's Papers*, 1826 bundle 4/1893, State Archives and Records NSW
 - (3) *The Sydney Gazette & New South Wales Advertiser*, Friday 15 April 1822 page 1
 - (4) *The Sydney Gazette & New South Wales Advertiser*, 18 March 1826 page 1
- Our Girls* - unpublished work sourced from original material SARNSW by Anne Mathews and Beth Matthews

*Linsey-Woolsey was an 18thC term given to a coarse twill or plain woven fabric woven with a linen warp and a woollen weft. It was used for clothing but also for bed coverlets.

** Scrutching is a process by which the long fibres of the flax plant are separated from the woody parts and prepared for spinning.

DESCENDANTS' CORNER

SUSAN JAMES 1816 – 1903 TRANSPORTED at AGED 15 (PART 1)

from Gary J Carter - maternal 4 x great grandson

Susan James was born in Soho London on 25/2/1816 to parents John James, tailor and Ann Hannah Harris. Her parents did not marry until 25/12/1816 after publishing banns in August and September of that year. Susan was the first of twelve children, and was baptised many years later in St Anne's Church Soho, the entry recording her birth date and the occupation of her father as a tailor of Grafton Street.

In March 1829 Susan was caught trying to steal a handkerchief with a value of 1/6 and was brought to trial at the Old Bailey. By this time she was aged thirteen and a half, and there were now five children in the family, one boy having died the year before

The text of the Trial is as follows:

Susan James, Theft: Simple Grand larceny, 09 April 1829.

The Proceedings of the Old Bailey Ref; t18290409-279.958:

Susan James was indicted for stealing, on the 30th March, 1 handkerchief, value 1s 6d. the goods of George Knapp.

George Knapp. I am a pawnbroker and live in Golden lane. The prisoner came in on the 30th March to redeem an apron; she asked the price of another apron, and pulled out some others; Hare watched her - I heard something snatched from the door, and she was brought back with this handkerchief, which is mine.

George Hare. On the 30th March I saw the prisoner pull the handkerchief from the door; she was then on the threshold - she put it under her shawl and was going off; I took hold of her - she said "don't don't". I brought her back - the handkerchief has my master's mark on it.

GUILTY. Aged 15. Transported for seven years.

The fact that Susan was trying to redeem an apron suggests that the family was in severe financial difficulties. Less than four months after the crime was committed Susan was taken aboard the ship 'Lucy Davidson' with another one hundred female prisoners and twenty children. The ship left London on 20/7/1829 bound for Sydney, arriving on 29/11/1829 after a voyage of a little over four months, two women died on the voyage.

The convict indent for Susan states she was aged 16, but if the date of birth given when she was baptised was correct then in reality she would have turned 14 in the February of 1830. Susan could read, she was a protestant, single, and her occupation was given as 'nurse girl'. She had been sentenced to seven years, and it was recorded that she had two former convictions. Susan was 4 feet 9 1/4 inches tall, with a ruddy freckled complexion, a small dark mole in the corner of the right eyebrow, a small mole on her left cheek, light brown hair and grey eyes. Susan was sent to C Byers, in Charlotte Place in Sydney and later to the Parramatta Female Factory. Susan must have been better behaved, as she was a 1st class convict at the Factory.

January the ladies of the *Lucy Davidson* had made their presence felt in Sydney. From the *Monitor*:

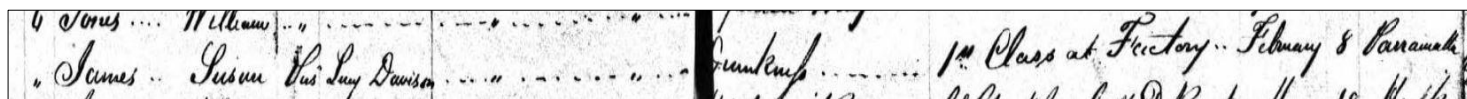
"The women who were landed from the Lucy Davidson, are so very troublesome, being continually brought before the Police Office that the Magistrates are of opinion they are the most evil-disposed crew that have been landed in the Colony for many a day!



Photograph taken about 1890 Queanbeyan NSW Presumed to be the widow Horneyblew, formerly Susan James, who married first James Brown, then Thomas Muldoon, then John Hudson, then Lewis Horneyblew. Courtesy Gary J. Carter

And from the *Sydney Gazette*:

The female prisoners by the Lucy Davidson have turned out but a profitless shipment. Most of the Magdalene's were assigned to service in Sydney and by far the greater portion of those, we are told have been returned by their masters to government as incorrigibly bad characters.



The next we hear of Susan, probably now aged 15, was when she married James Brown [aged 29] on 2/4/1831 in Sydney.

James Brown was also a convict who had been transported, arriving in Sydney 1/9/1819 on the ship 'Canada', at age 17 and had received his Certificate of Freedom on 19/1/1826. James and Susan had three children, two surviving, John born c 1832 and Sarah born 4/7/1835. James Brown died 5 Jan 1835, age 50.

There were two men named 'James Brown' who came on the ship 'Canada'. James Brown from Ireland arrived in 1815 and became a Constable at Windsor. This James Brown was sentenced to 14 years.

Our James Brown came from London and arrived on the 'Canada 5' in 1819, with a sentence of seven years.

There are two death entries for James Brown per 'Canada'

V 1835 2435 19. James Brown died 5 Jan 1835, age 50 per 'Canada', Windsor Hospital.

V1840 571 24A. James Brown died 24 Dec 1840, age 55, freed by servitude, per 'Canada', Benevolent Society, Cumberland. St Lawrence, Cumberland.

Susan James who married James Brown (arrived 1819), had a daughter - Sarah Brown - born 4 July 1835 on the Monaro Plains. Susan had another daughter - Ellen Muldoon - born about 1837 in Michelago - father Thomas Muldoon, who settled on land near Michelago in 1835/36.

This suggests to me that the death for James Brown in Jan 1835 is for our James Brown. Susan was aged 19, pregnant and widowed. She possibly went with Thomas Muldoon to Michelago where her first daughter was born in July 1835. Thomas and Susan married in 1842.

Susan received her certificate of freedom on 1 July 1837, stating that she was the wife of James Brown convict who came to Australia on the ship 'Canada'. Having served her sentence and received her Certificate, Susan was now free to live anywhere she wanted.

Back in England her parents were still alive in 1841, living in Newcourt, Cripplegate with seven of their children. John James was still working as a tailor, and stated that he was not born in Middlesex, but by 1851 John was dead, and his wife was living with four of her children, in 39 Bridgewater Gardens Cripplegate, doing needlework while two sons were working as tailors and one as a warehouseman. There is irony in this address, as it is the same address given by the Constable who testified against Susan James back in 1829. I have not been able to locate Susan's mother after this date.

We don't know where she met her next husband, but on 11/3/1842 Susan married the ex-convict Thomas Muldoon in Michelago, Thomas Shanahan and Ellen Russell witnessing the ceremony. Thomas Shanahan, also an Irish ex-convict had been granted the licence to the Union Inn at Keefe's Plains at Michelago in 1838, adjoining the land of Thomas Muldoon. Ellen Russell was the daughter of the Russell family who had arrived from Ireland in 1839. In the 1841 census the Russell and the Muldoon families were the only two families listed as residing at Michelago. *

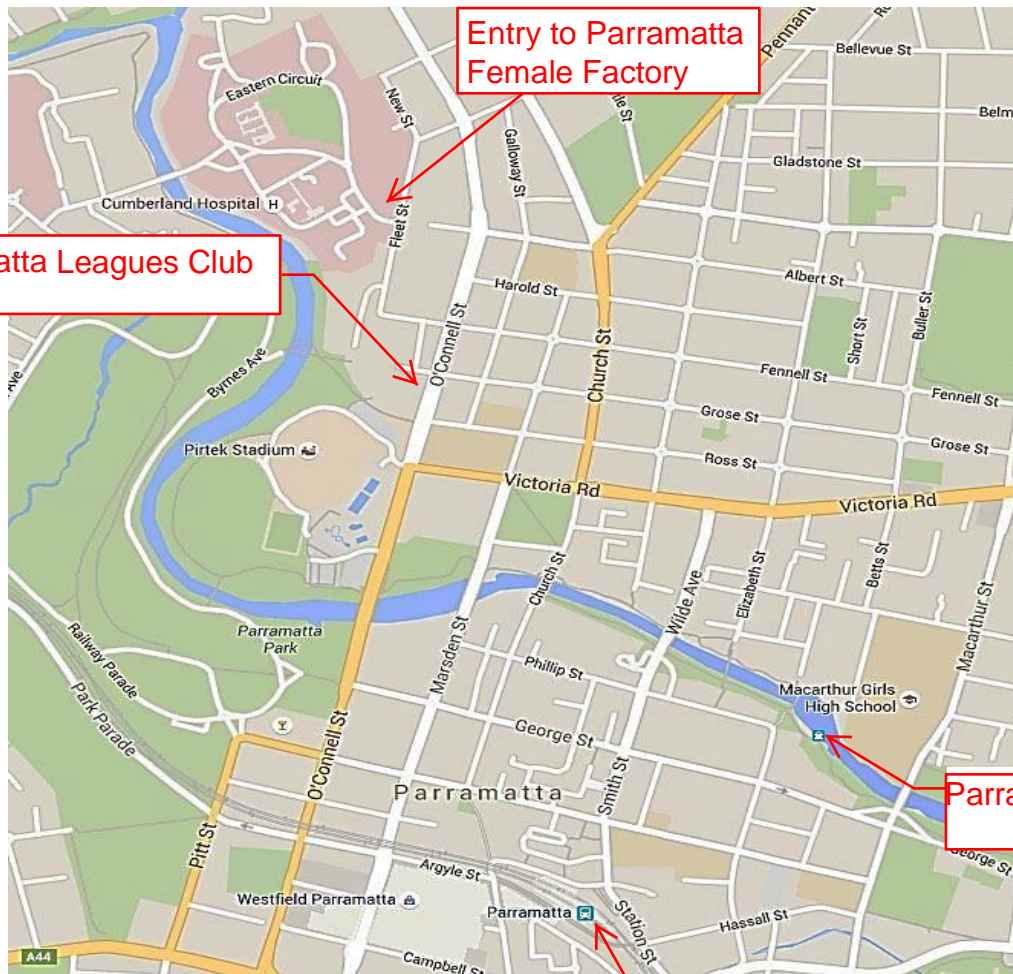
Research by GJ Carter and MM Parkes - sourced from original documents SARNSW; Ancestry.com online

*Michelago is in the Monaro district, 54 kms south of Canberra. It was founded in 1820.

REQUEST FROM NEW MEMBERS:

DIRECTIONS TO PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY, PARRAMATTA, NSW ©WM

Cumberland Hospital, 5 Fleet Street, North Parramatta

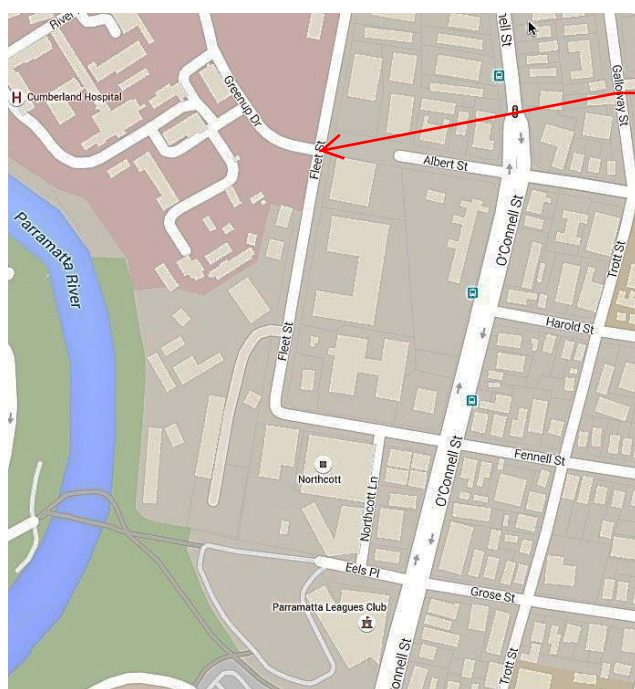


Parramatta Leagues Club

Entry to Parramatta Female Factory

Parramatta Ferry Wharf

Parramatta Railway Station



Entry to Parramatta Female Factory
5 Fleet Street North Parramatta
Cumberland Hospital Entrance

Take shuttle bus from Macquarie Street, Parramatta
Short walk to Cumberland Hospital.

Map: Courtesy Google Maps.

PLEASE NOTE: MEMBERS WILL BE INFORMED WHEN THIS VENUE WILL BE AVAILABLE

A "NEW HOME" - CARPENTERS' SHED, GIPPS YARD AT THE FEMALE FACTORY SITE -

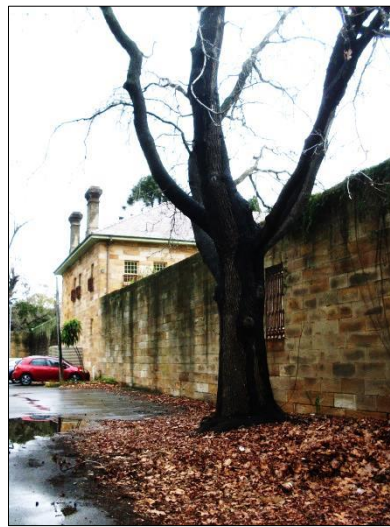
Cumberland Hospital, 5 FLEET STREET NORTH PARRAMATTA

Directions:

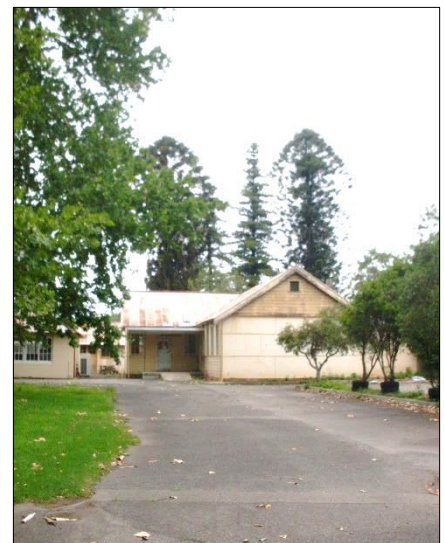
1. Enter at Cumberland Hospital entrance - large sandstone building (HETI) is ahead (1). Commemorative wall with sign is to the left.
2. Turn left & follow road through the blue gate into the Gipps Yard.
3. Turn immediate right - continue on beside wall then turn left. 1.
4. The **Carpenters' Shed** is ahead - in far right hand corner of the Gipps Yard.



2. Commemorative Wall and blue gates leading into the Gipps Yard. (The 'Dead House' is on left of gate entrance).



3. Sandstone wall inside Gipps Yard looking towards River.



4. Carpenters' Shed - Venue PFFF Meeting



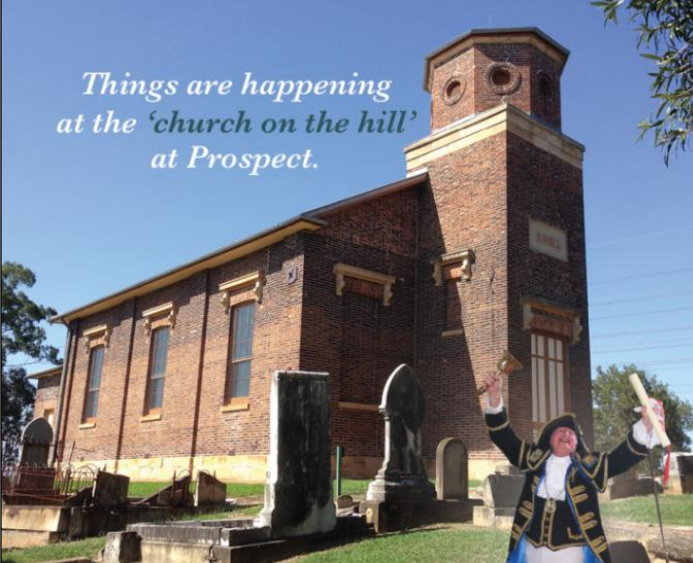
Fingers crossed that in the future there will be interpretation and dedicated places within the Factory footprint core buildings and yards that tell the narratives held within the walls.

The *earliest* female convict site in Australia (c1818), the Parramatta Female Factory, deserves no less than other UNESCO World Heritage sites - the Cascades Female Factory in Tasmania (c1828) and the Hyde Park Barracks (c1817).

Keep those World Heritage petitions coming in - we are just over 8000!

Petitions can be downloaded from our website: parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au - just follow the link or collect one (or more) petition sheets at the next meeting. Each member collecting ten signatures on one sheet would soon get us to our target of 10,000 and to the Federal Parliament of Australia!

STOP PRESS - HEAR YE HEAR YE! "THINGS ARE HAPPENING"!




Things are happening at the 'church on the hill' at Prospect.

Come and learn about the expansion of St Bartholomew's Cemetery at


Back to St Bartholomew's Day

An annual Open Day hosted by The Friends of St Bartholomew's, and supported by Blacktown City Council.

**6 April 2019
9am-3pm**



St Bartholomew's Church, Ponds Road, Prospect

Supported by:  Blacktown City Council

**Back to St Bartholomew's Day 2019
6 April 9am-3pm**

10am: Official Opening

- Guest Speaker Jill Finch, President of Friends of St Bartholomew's: **Presentation on the history of St Bartholomew's Church and Cemetery**
- Listen out for the Town Crier
- NSW Corps of Marines will give drill demonstrations
- Music by Wandering Minstrels

Throughout the day there will be:

- Church and Cemetery history displays,
- St Bartholomew's cemetery records will be available for family history research,
- Self guided cemetery tours,
- Demonstrations of simple conservation work done on graves by the Friends of St Bartholomew's,
- Local Historical Societies trade tables, and
- Refreshments and variety stalls.



Free shuttle bus from Blacktown City Council Carpark, Flushcombe Road, Blacktown from 9am, follow the signs.

Free parking at Council Carpark or onsite at Ponds Road, Prospect.

Entry: \$6 (free entry under 12 years)
Enquiries: 02 9621 8225, 02 9622 8309

St Bartholomew's Church, Ponds Road, Prospect

Supported by:  Blacktown City Council

Dates for your diary - historically speaking!

- **St Barts Open Day** 6th April 2019
- **The Australian National Trust Heritage Festival**, "Connecting People, Places and the Past" begins 18th April and runs until 19th May 2019. Check out the "festival" website: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/ahf/>

Events will come "online" over the next few weeks and will include "talks and walks, tours of towns, spaces and places, landmarks, sacred sites and shipwrecks"!

- **Parramatta & District Historical Society and the National Trust Parramatta Branch** are offering a wide range of activities including a walk with Governor Phillip! For details: <https://parramattahistorical.org.au/> and follow the link - Heritage Festival 2019.

