



**PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS INC.
NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO: 29 September-October 2019**



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 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
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Treasurer/Public Officer: Kerima-Gae Topp **General Secretary/Editor:** Ronda Gaffey
Committee: Membership Secretary: Cate Whittaker **Minutes Secretary:** Anne Mathews
 Stephen Bryant, Pauline Garmonsway, Lynette Watkins, Janice Ruse-Huntington.

Next Meeting: **Friday 18 October Guest Speaker at 1:00pm General Meeting at 2:00pm** followed by afternoon tea.
VENUE: Parramatta Female Factory Friends’ Rooms (Carpenters’ Shed/Archaeology Office) , Gipps Yard, 5 Fleet Street, North Parramatta.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Factory Friends,

We have said goodbye to winter and welcomed spring. Our activities have largely focussed on our new home and of course 'It's a Riot' day.

Our first meeting has happened in our new rooms – very exciting. We are beginning to settle in. Thank you to those who have brought in items to help us function in the new location.



We are still looking for some items including any resource centre items, such as books on early Colonial life, convictism or the female factories. A wooden table and a desk would help with the resource centre. Just email the friends at our gmail if you think you can help. I would like to thank Frank Williams for locating 70 comfortable chairs for us – an essential piece of infrastructure.

Research, outreach talks and tours are still going strong. If you have the inclination to be involved in providing tours please do let Steve, our Tour coordinator know.

As you know Annual Riot Day is just around the corner so if you would like to assist with this there are a number of ways you can be involved. Please advise by email asap so we know who can assist and develop our final schedules. This year it will be Saturday 26th October. Please go online to book for the day, tours and talks.

This year our keynote will be Babette Smith talking 'Flesh on the Bones' of our female convict ancestors. Babette's talks are always thought provoking and provide a unique and well researched perspective. Our second talk will be Cate Whittaker sharing her research on Elizabeth Fry and her protégés. Elizabeth Fry was key to prison reform in Britain and the form of our female factory.

Although our event is open there are limited bookings for our tours and two talks so don't delay if you want to attend these. To see details of the event and book these follow the link: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/its-a-riot-2019-tickets-71482828063>

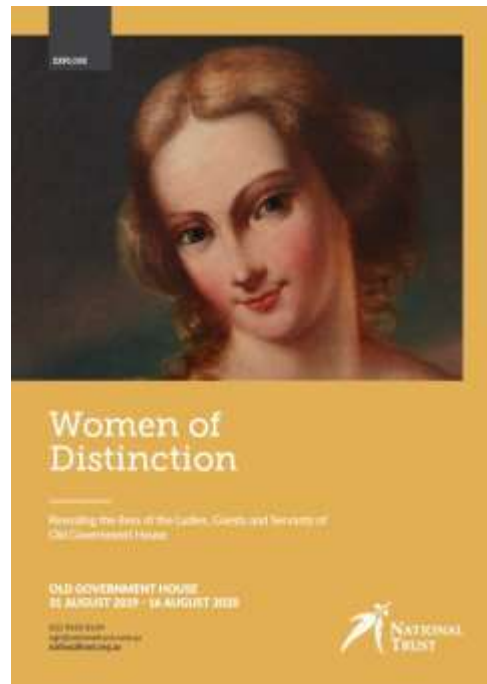
Looking forward to seeing you at the Riot Day and perhaps having a cuppa with you in our new rooms!
Now sit back and enjoy this latest issue of the Parramatta Female Factory Friends Newsletter.

All the best

Gay Hendriksen
President

NOTICEBOARD

- **NEXT MEETING: Friday 18 October 2019. GUEST SPEAKER at 1:00pm: Vicki Wilson - topic: *Tracing Your Female Factory Ancestors*. General Meeting at 2:00pm followed by afternoon tea. Venue: The Female Factory Friends' Rooms, Gipps Yard, 5 Fleet Street North Parramatta.**
- **ANNUAL RIOT DAY - SATURDAY 26 OCTOBER** - see page 10/11.
- **SPECIAL EVENTS for your DIARY:**



ANNOUNCING A NEW SALES ITEM - by Eileen Avery A Sewing Kit - or Housewife or Hussif



Women in the Female Factory were expected to sew. Torn clothes needed to be repaired and new clothing for themselves and for sale, had to be made by hand.

Everything was hand sewn so a sewing kit was an absolute necessity. Sometimes women made them from scraps of their own dresses or, if they were lucky, from off-cuts from their mistresses' gowns. The unlucky ones had to make do with cut up hessian sacks or flour bags.

Pins and needles were also made by hand and women needed to keep these costly items close to prevent pilfering. Thimbles were easily 'lost' in the same way, so wrapping a scrap of leather around the fingers served the same purpose.



Thank You Eileen
for your donation, time & commitment !

A Matter of Conviction by Gay Hendriksen

Was it free will, circumstance or different forces of people, time and place? Was it a riot or was it one of the earliest recorded workers' actions in Australia? A number of perspectives have been put forward for the historic event that took place at 7am on the 27th October 1827. Unified actions from convict workers have been variously described by authorities as riotous, mutinous or rebellious. To determine whether a riot or a workers' action is contingent on the context and the catalyst that brought about the event.

In 1824 Matron Elizabeth Raine (later Fulloon) started at the female factory and is reported as managing it competently over the first couple of years. In 1826 William Tuckwell reported issues with food rations. The record of the rations was not verifiable and the women did not appear to be getting enough to eat. Matron Fulloon and her husband were implicated. In February of the same year Mary Ann Hamilton died of starvation at the factory on the 24 Feb. Her death was found by the Coroner John Eyre to be from "hunger and hard treatment". There was an inquiry into the factory. A Grand Jury was constituted and found the rations were unsatisfactory, 253 women and their children had no access to water supply, the bread was inferior and they were short of clothing and shoes.

In 1827 corruption was identified again within the factory over rations, factory cloth and the matron's son's liaison with the women. Throughout the year there was a significant rise in punishable behaviour with the highest number of misbehaviours including abusing the matron, refusing to work and insolence.

In March there was unrest in the factory - Dr Henry Gratton Douglass was accosted by a number of women, one of whom wrestled him to the ground. In September Matron Fulloon tendered her resignation with the last week being the week in which the historic action occurred.

In the week starting the 22nd of October there was unrest in the factory and 13 women stopped work and refused to do any more until rations were returned - a determined action to improve their conditions. Matron Fulloon's response was to reduce the tea and sugar. The 3rd class women's response was to take over the yard, expelling a constable.

On Friday 26th, Matron Fulloon was assaulted by the women. As a result on the next morning, Saturday 27th of October, the new matron, Anne Gordon stopped the allowance of bread and sugar altogether. The women threatened to tear down the gates if the rations were not reinstated immediately. Matron Gordon settled the women down but the refusal to improve circumstances was the final point of no return. The women used their work tools and other available objects and broke through the gates.

The result was reported by the newspapers as, *Amazonian Banditti*, who ran through Parramatta, attacking bakers' shops. Magistrates requisitioned the police and military with a double purpose of securing the fugitives and staying the mutiny. The constables, a captain, a lieutenant and about 40 rank and file with bayonets, were seen running in all directions. Expectation was that the military would commence firing if necessary. His Majesty's 57th Regiment charged towards the surrounding hills with bugles sounding to prevent the women from escaping into the bush. Various skirmishes occurred in the town and bush. Finally a 'treaty was agreed' and the captured were escorted back to the factory where Major Lockyer, superintendent of police at Parramatta directed the ringleaders to be selected and confined in the cells. The rioters banded together and declared if one suffers they all should suffer.

About 40 had escaped into the bush towards Toongabbie. A hundred were still missing some days later. Rations were restored to those in the factory however, the women were still treated severely directly following the riot with punishments such as a month on bread and water.

Correspondence out from Colonial Secretary and Governor Darling do not indicate any reaction to the riot/action – just that ‘there was a disturbance in the factory’. The reasons were debated at the time. One journalist suggested the cause was the abandoned nature of the women while a second journalist put it down to starvation in the factory.

The women showed solidarity and agency through their determination to refuse their situation as victims and a will to improve their situation. These female factory women responded with courage to a desperate set of circumstances. It was not a riot that simply responded to an opportunity to escape. Each stage in the chain of events was a result of concerted decision making in response to treatment with the aim of improved conditions. It was not simply a violent disturbance of the peace. It was Australia’s first women’s consolidated workers’ action for basic rights.

Gay’s most recent publication, *Conviction - The 1827 Fight For Rights at The Parramatta Female Factory*, is the first book which comprehensively details events leading up to the October 1827 ‘riot’ event.



The 3rd Class and yard - Parramatta Female Factory - where the unrest and action began, Saturday 27 October 1827

A Rebellion by Cate Whittaker

The name the *Parramatta Female Factory* was a deliberate distortion by the Colonial Government to hide the fact that women were incarcerated behind its high walls and locked into its rooms. The report in 1836 called it a prison (so called here a factory) and the Sisters of Charity in 1839 called it a workhouse and prison. We are belittling the treatment of women, which Mary Hindle’s letter states was very cruel ⁽¹⁾, by continuing this Government lie - we should call it a prison.

For the same reason we should not be influenced by the prejudice of the time against these women and call the only female rebellion in history anywhere, a random, violent riot, something that was a bit of fun, “a riot!” when these brave women risked being hung and faced bayonets and bullets to break out and tell the town they were starving.

So let us this show on 26th October, call it for what it is and give these they women the respect deserve and call it Rebellion Day!

Cate is an author and playwright; her play, *Forgotten*, based on the 1827 riot, was recently performed with great success at Riverside Theatres Parramatta

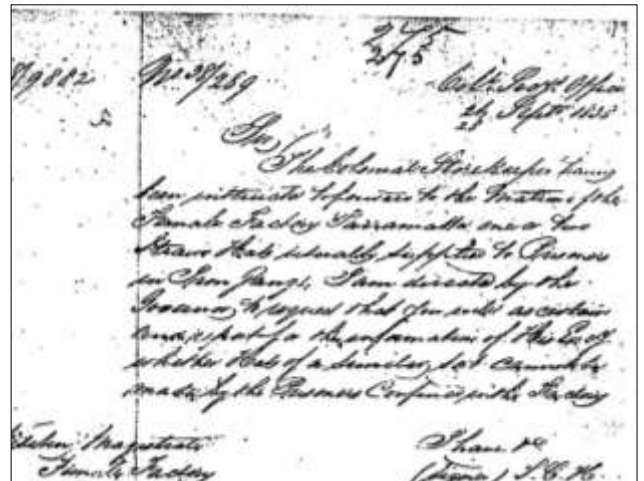
1. In a letter to her husband George, dated 12 November 1827, Mary describes the factory being a place “where they punish women most severely” - <https://www.haslingden.blogspot.com.au/2017/02-mary-hindle-story-by-lorraine-hooper.html>

Thank you Gay and Cate for sharing your perspectives on such a dramatic event and leaving us pondering - was this simply a bread riot, a workers’ action or a rebellion? It is certainly an event worthy of reflection and commemoration on ‘Riot Day’. Ed.

The Parramatta Female Factory was primarily a convict women’s barracks, a prison and a place of manufacture. The most commonly known item produced was woollen cloth or as it was colloquially known, *Parramatta Cloth*. Other items manufactured by the women included netting (for fishing nets), straw hats, linen and blanketing.

In the Colonial Secretary’s Correspondence, there are numerous references for the need to keep the women busy; new projects are suggested and the need to maintain financial viability of production is repeatedly stated.

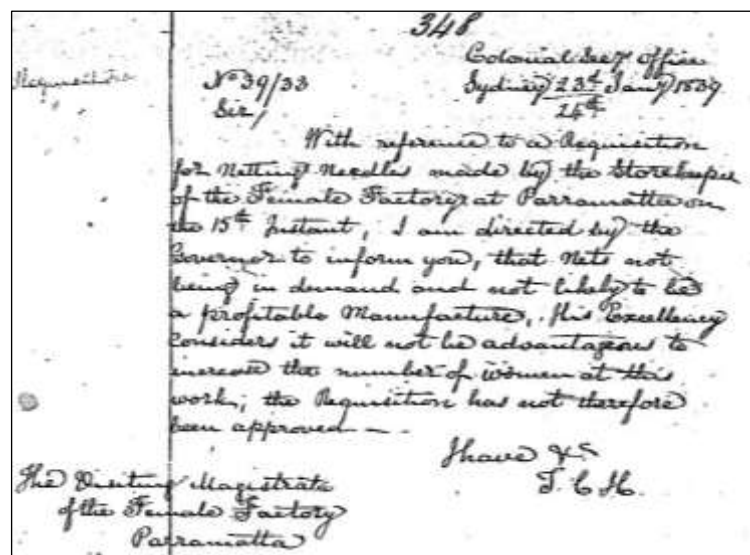
In a letter dated 26 September 1835 from the Colonial Secretary, the Visiting Parramatta Magistrate is informed that the Colonial Storekeeper had been instructed to send the Matron a sample of straw hats (usually supplied to prisoners in iron gangs), inquiring as to whether “hats of a similar sort cannot be supplied by the prisoners confined in the Factory” (1).



There would have been any number of women with the appropriate skills and experience in straw plaiting including hat making (in the 18th and 19th Centuries straw plaiting was a thriving cottage industry). (2)

In a letter dated 23 January 1839, the Colonial Secretary, under instructions from the Governor rejects a request for additional netting needles to be supplied to the Factory. It would seem that the demand for nets had decreased and was considered not to be “a profitable Manufacture” - the letter concludes, “His Excellency considers it will not be advantageous to increase the number of women at this work..” (3).

3.



References

1. Colonial Secretary’s Correspondence, Reel 1059 38/289, dated 26th/28th September 1838, State Records & Archives NSW
2. Catherine Field aged 15 (*per Brothers*) and her sisters Elizabeth Field, aged 20 and Margaret aged 18 (*per Elizabeth 1828*) all stated their trade as “straw plaiter”, from: *Elizabeth 1828 From Celtic Cross to Southern Cross* by Suzanne Voytas, pages 174, 175, 176 published: Suzanne Voytas, Sydney 2010
3. Colonial Secretary’s Correspondence Reel 1059 39/34 dated 23rd/24th January 1839 SARNSW
Our Girls - unpublished work - sourced from original material, SARNSW by Anne Mathews and Beth Matthews

DESCENDANT'S CORNER - CATHERINE SULLIVAN, WIFE OF TIMOTHY SULLIVAN & EMANUEL ELLIOTT - A STORY OF LOSS & HARDSHIP
BY RHONDA BROWNLOW

Catherine and Timothy, husband and wife were both convicted of a crime in August 1812 and tried in Country Kerry, Ireland in August that year; Catherine was sentenced to 7 years and Timothy to life ⁽¹⁾.

Catherine was transported to Australia per '*Catherine*'; on the ship's indent her occupation is listed as *Country Work*; she was 28 years at the time.

Her husband Timothy was transported on the ship *Three Bees*; he embarked in Dublin then onto Cork then sailed from Falmouth on 8th December arriving 6 May 1814, two days later than the ship '*Catherine*'. Both ships sailed in the same convoy accompanied by the armed frigates *Niger* and *Targus*.

It is not known when Catherine and Timothy commenced their relationship as their daughter Mary Sullivan was born circa 1813 - she was possibly born on ship as the muster of November 1814 lists Catherine with one child. In 1815 a second daughter Norah was born. ⁽²⁾

On 31st January 1817 both Timothy and Catherine were convicted of a crime by Rev Robert Cartwright at Liverpool, and departed on the *Elizabeth Henrietta* bound for Newcastle ⁽³⁾. Timothy was sentenced for the remainder of his life and Catherine for two years. In May 1818 Catherine petitioned Gov. Macquarie to be allowed to leave Newcastle for Sydney to collect monies owed to Timothy, stating she had three small daughters in distress ⁽⁴⁾. In December 1819 she petitioned to have Timothy to be returned to Sydney pleading that he be pardoned for she and her family were destitute. On 8th January 1820, Timothy's sentence was remitted ⁽⁵⁾.

On the 14th October 1820 Timothy was shot at Hen and Chicken Bay with a musket, receiving a wound in his side; he lingered for some weeks dying of his injuries in the General Hospital Sydney on the 8th November 1820. The inquest details are as follows:

INQUEST

Servant E. S. Hall

Coroner

The Sydney Gazette

Sir

I have the honour to deliver to your Excellency an Inquest taken on the body of Timothy Sullivan a prisoner of the Crown who was shot by William Chaliner a government servant to Mr. Panton about three weeks ago. The deceased ...a grass-cutter had stolen some oranges out of the Panton's orchard and was accused of stealing some linen by the Overseer Chaliner who happened to meet him with the oranges. Sullivan being afraid to go before Mr. Minchin refused to walk towards the house but was turning round to go towards his boat when Chaliner shot him with a gun laden with slugs or small pieces of lead. Sullivan was conveyed to the General Hospital in Sydney - he lingered in great pain about a fortnight and then died. Out of fifteen jurors only twelve have signed the verdict the other three conceived that although the shooting of Sullivan was a wanton and a cruel act, yet as he had committed a trespass and refused to surrender at direction but persisted in walking (though it was quietly and without resistance) in a contrary direction to that required by the Overseer they considered that the shooting of him did not amount to the full crime of wilful murder. I did not detain the jurors till they were unanimous because I conceived twelve are a sufficient number to sufficient number to justify me in returning the Verdict to your Excellency ⁽⁶⁾

Catherine was pregnant at the time of Timothy's death and she had no choice but to petition to have Mary (aged 7) and Norah (aged 6) placed in the Female Orphan School ⁽⁷⁾; infant Margaret remained with her and daughter Jane was born 1821.

Two years later, Catherine married Emanuel Elliott (*per Neptune 1818*) on 25 March 1823 at St John's Church Parramatta. Catherine is noted as "free by servitude" - Emanuel is noted as "prisoner" (8).

Four years later, in September 1827, Emanuel was charged with robbery and Catherine was charged as an alleged accomplice (9)

Emanuel Elliott, a prisoner of the crown, for stealing a piece of dungaree from the shop of a dealer, in George-street, was sentenced six months to an iron-gang; and Catherine Sullivan, a free woman, who was proved to have been implicated with Elliott in the commission of the robbery, was committed to take her trial at the next sessions.

Catherine was sentenced a few days later - her crime was stealing a piece of "dungarrie". Catherine was sentenced to three months in 3rd class at the Factory. The Jury "recommended the prisoner to mercy" in consideration of her having four young children. Catherine, a "free" woman prior to her charge, is described as "being in great agony of mind" not knowing the fate of her children. (10)

Catherine Elliott stood charged with stealing a piece of dungaree, the property of Charles Pickering. The prosecutor is a shopkeeper. The prisoner went into the shop under a pretence of buying some trilling article, and during her stay there, was proved to have purloined a piece of dungaree, which, being missed immediately after her departure, caused a pursuit to be made, when she was overtaken, with the article in her possession, which the prosecutor swore to be his property. Verdict—Guilty. The Jury, however, recommended the prisoner to mercy, in consideration of her having four small children entirely dependent on her for support. Sentenced three months to the third class in the Factory. Prisoner, apparently in great agony of mind, enquired what would become of her children.—Will my children be left with me?

Catherine was sentenced on Wednesday 17 October 1827. Within days of arrival in 3rd class to serve a three month sentence, a further "crime" is noted with a punishment of 24 hours in the cells - a punishment ordered by the Matron. On 22 October she is listed as:

Elliott Catherine Free Matron 3rd class Riotous conduct 24 hour punishment 11.

In the same entry it is noted that "Emanuel Elliott - father, in iron gang at Port Macquarie". One can only surmise Catherine's distress when she arrived at the Factory having given up Jane (aged 6) and Margaret (aged 8), to the Female Orphan School (12). This entry suggests she may have been caught up somehow in the unrest in 3rd class leading up to the riot on Saturday morning, 27th October.

12.

No.	NAME.	Age	When Admitted.	Time of Quitting the School.	Parent's Name.	Residence.	Remarks.
113	Murphy, Mary	6	Sept 5 th		John Murphy	Ireland	
114	Burrows, John	11	Sept 21 st	25 Nov 18	John Burrows	Parramatta	Appointed to the Infirmary
115	Brooker, Frances	4	Oct 11 th		John Brooker	Liverpool	
116	Hillman, Sarah	3	Jan 7 th		John Hillman		
117	Hillman, Mary	10	Jan 7 th		John Hillman		Child of Convict
118	Hillman, Jane	8	Jan 7 th		John Hillman		

A year later, in the 1828 Census, Catherine and Emanuel Elliott are noted as living together at Goulburn Plains - Catherine is free and Emanuel is assigned to her - his status is noted as, "Ticket of Exemption") 13.

In early 1828, Mary Sullivan was sent from the Female Orphan School to work for Samuel O. Hassall where she met her future husband John Hearne.

In the November Census, Mary aged 16 and John Hearne aged 25, are noted as living as husband and wife - John is noted as "free by servitude" and Mary (*born in the Colony*) 14.

14.

A handwritten census entry on a grid. The first row contains the number '7', the name 'John', the age '25', the word 'free', the name 'Hearne', and the year '1828'. The second row contains the name 'Mary', the age '16', the word 'free', the name 'Sullivan', and the year '1828'. To the right of the grid, there is a signature 'S. O. Hassall' and the word 'Cook' written below it.

The 1828 Census shows that the family remained separated with Norah (entry 73) and Margaret (entry 74) in the Female Orphan School. Norah was aged 13 and Margaret aged 10 (15).

Handwritten census entries for Norah and Margaret Sullivan. The entries are written in cursive and include names, ages, and other details. The entries for Norah and Margaret are clearly visible.

Emanuel Eliott died 30th March 1836 at Goulburn. Catherine then moved to live with her daughter Jane and her husband George Evans at their property "Evondale" near Binda. She remained there until her death, 17th February 1860. She was aged 76. Catherine was buried in an unmarked grave on a rural property "Kenilworth" near Binda, NSW.

References:

1. Westbury Parish Records, Wiltshire County Records Office, Trowridge and Wiltshire Assizes Records 25/17/5- PRO
 2. Census & NSW General Muster 1813-1814 - Catherine is listed as wife Timothy Sullivan; off stores- 1 child on stores, State Archives & Records NSW
 - 3 Timothy Sullivan, per *Three Bees* - on list of prisoners to be sent to Newcastle; Reel 6005 4/3496 p 4, SARNSW
 4. Colonial Secretary's Papers, Reel 6066 4/1806 page 121, May 1818, SARNSW
 5. Colonial Secretary's Papers, Reel 6007 4/3501 page 171, SARNSW
 6. Report on Inquest Timothy Sullivan: Sydney Gazette & NSW Advertiser (1803-1842) 8 November 1820
 7. Colonial Secretary's Correspondence; Mary Sullivan; Norah Sullivan - Admitted to the Female Orphan Institution; Jan 3 1821, Muster 1822, Reel 6040 4/403 p 55, SARNSW
 8. Church Register: NSW Parramatta St John CE: Marriage
 9. Australian (Sydney: NSW 1824-1848) Friday 21 September 1827 page 3
 10. Australian (Sydney: NSW 1824-1848) Wednesday 17 October 1827
 11. Colonial Secretary's Papers: Return of Punishments at the Parramatta Female Factory, Parramatta 1827: Reel 2278 dated 01.07.1827-31.12.1827
 - 12 Female Orphan School , extract entries for Norah, Margaret, Jane Sullivan 1827, Colonial Secretary's Correspondence Reel 1477 p5/5a, SARNSW
 13. 1828 New South Wales Census (Australian copy) for Catherine Elliott 1828 Census Alphabetical return. Ancestry.com, accessed 12/9/2019
 14. 1828 New South Wales Census (Australian copy) for John Hearne and Mary Hearne; 1828 Census Alphabetical return. Ancestry.com, accessed 12/9/2019
 15. 1828 New South Wales Census (Australian copy) for Sullivan N and Sullivan M; 1828 Alphabetical return. Ancestry.com, accessed 12/9/2019
- Additional research: Anne Mathews

Rhonda is a great, great, great granddaughter of Catherine Sullivan, descended from Catherine and Timothy Sullivan's eldest daughter Mary.

Rhonda has another interesting forbear who also appears in the Factory narrative - James Squire, publican at Kissing Point - his inn, *the Malt Shovel* was a popular stop-over for the convict women being transported to the Parramatta Female Factory and is mentioned in the Bigge Report (Vol 2). James, a First Fleeter, is her 4 x great grandfather.

Thank you Rhonda for sharing Catherine's extraordinary narrative which is a truly poignant one of survival, separation and loss - Ed.

IT'S A RIOT!

*Commemorate the life & times of the Parramatta Female Factory Women.
Celebrate the day the women struck for their rights 192 years ago!*



WHAT: RIOT DAY AT THE FACTORY

WHEN: SATURDAY 26 October 2019

9.30am - 3:00pm

WHERE: Cumberland Hospital,

5 Fleet Street North Parramatta

street parking only - see over for directions to site

ENTRY: GOLD COIN - BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL FOR TALKS and TOURS*

EVENTBRITE REGISTRATION:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/its-a-riot-2019-tickets-71482828063>

*Follow links at Eventbrite site for talks and tours bookings

EVENTS SCHEDULE

*REGISTRATION 9.30am WELCOME - Honouring the Factory women 10:00am

*KEYNOTE SPEAKER: 10:15am Babette Smith OAM

*GUEST SPEAKER: 11:30am Cate Whittaker

*TRADE TABLES ALL DAY *HERSTORY DISPLAY ALL DAY

*LUNCH: 12:00pm - bring a picnic *TOURS: 12:30pm

*DESCENDANTS' TALKS AT THE COMMEMORATIVE WALL: 2pm

*Tea/coffee available all day

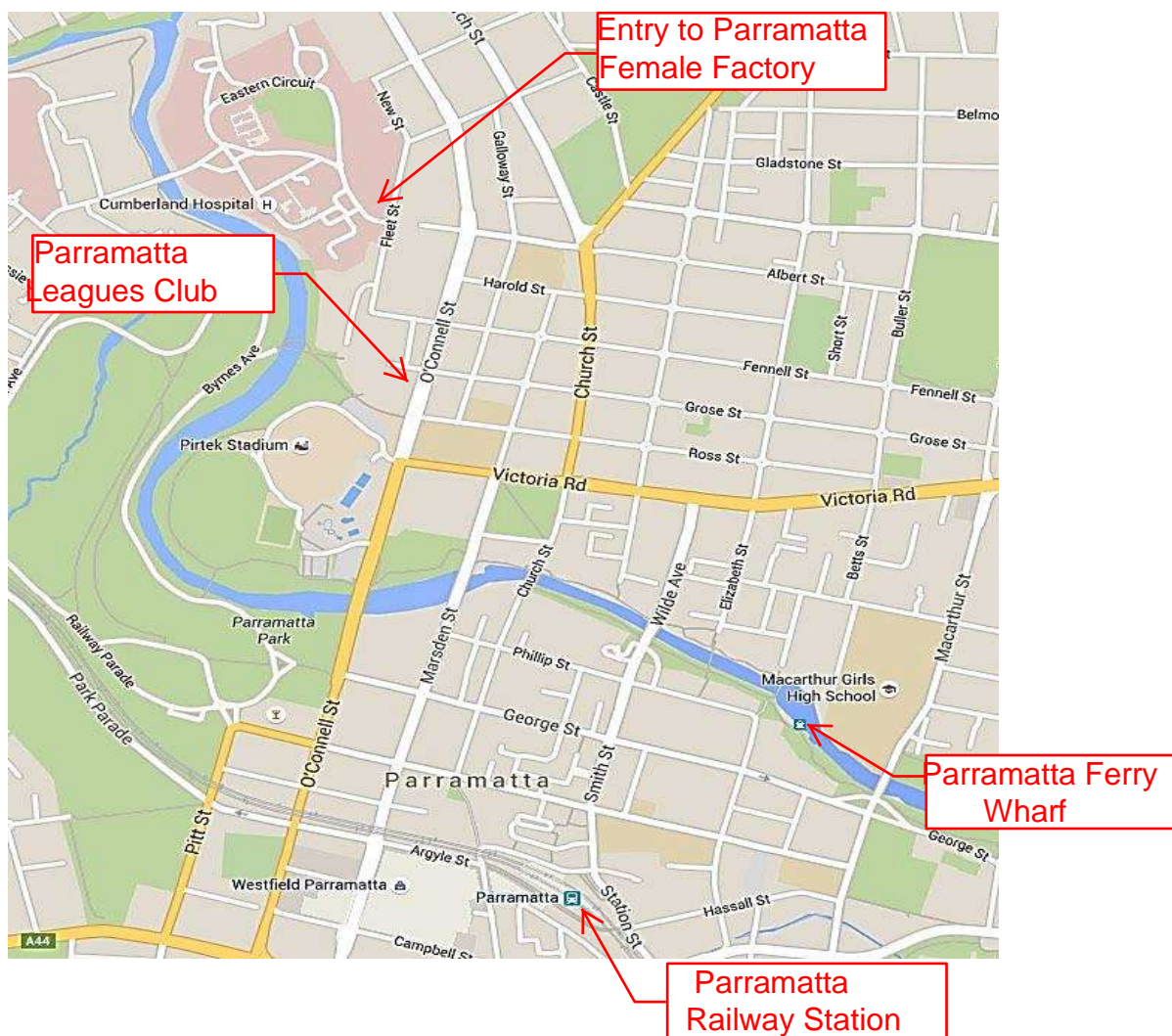
parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com web: parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au

Image: The Parramatta Female Factory, Augustus Earle 1826: Courtesy National Library of Australia - .gov.au/nla.pic-an2818460

DIRECTIONS TO PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY, PARRAMATTA, NSW ©WM

5 Fleet Street, North Parramatta - Shuttle bus from Macquarie Street, Parramatta - alight Parramatta Leagues Club - walk to site in Fleet Street

ENTER MAIN ENTRANCE CUMBERLAND HOSPITAL



Entry to Parramatta Female Factory



The Commemorative Wall



Gipps Yard Gates - entrance to the Friends' Rooms

Enlarged Map Parramatta Female Factory
5 Fleet Street, Parramatta