



World Heritage Status for Parramatta Female Factory

Parramatta Female Factory site belongs to all Australians and is worthy of World Heritage Status.

The Parramatta Female Factory commenced in 1818 is not on the National Heritage List and is worthy of a world heritage site status. This historic Governor Macquarie commissioned and Greenway designed site is the earliest female convict site still in existence and is older than all but three World Heritage Convict Sites in Australia. Over 9,000 female factory women - approximately 1 in 5 Australians related to these women. It is a part of all Australian's identity, our children's heritage.

This site holds the stories of the women, men and children -stories of hardship, migration, survival, winning against the odds and going on to become the mothers, teachers, farm workers and businesswomen of the nation. Through their lives they have become the silent revolution as the mothers, sisters, aunts, grandmothers, friends that contributed to the change in colonial thinking to what we know now as Australian values including: fairness, mateship, sense of humour, survival and making the most of life and opportunity. The stories have resonance today and can provide experiences that can spark meaningful connection and change for individuals.

The site is currently used for training, storage, offices, paper storage, client consultation, credit union or lies vacant. These could all be transferred elsewhere.

World Heritage Status

The Parramatta Female Factory Site needs to be protected, preserved, conserved, interpreted historically and make accessible to all Australians present and future through World Heritage Site Status.

The Parramatta Female Factory Site includes the Convict Female Factory site footprint which is the 1818 Governor Macquarie site, the 1820s Governor Brisbane third class additions and the Governor Gipps courtyard and cells additions.

Conservation Priorities

This site needs to be preserved intact in its entirety, just as it is with Port Arthur and Hyde Park Barracks. The architecture and architectural elements are of critical historical value.

Future reuse of the Parramatta Female Factory site:

Future reuse as a World Heritage Site - national resource and learning centre, research, education, museum, leisure and tourism activities focused on the Female Factories period with reference to the subsequent histories of the female factory footprint.