

PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO: 07 FEB -MARCH 2016

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The Parramatta Female Factory - Augustus Earle 1826 – courtesy NLA

<p>President: Gay Hendriksen Treasurer: Kerima-Gae Topp Secretary/Public Officer: Alice Kershaw History and General Committee: Anne Mathews, Beth Matthews, Kerry Martin Pauline Garmonsway</p>	<p>Vice President: Judith Dunn Membership Secretary: Noela Vranich Pub/Newsletter: Ronda Gaffey</p>
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THE PFFF CALENDAR FOR 2016 – SEE PAGE 3

NEXT GENERAL MEETING IS FRIDAY – 18TH MARCH AT 1:30PM

NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE: Granville Historical Society Rooms,
 62 Railway Parade, Granville.



PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS

Welcome to the Parramatta Female Factory Friends February newsletter. 2016 is certainly bringing another full year.

Progress is continuing with the advocacy. Most critical is meeting with Urban Growth, February 19th at 2pm at Granville Heritage Centre. This is the membership opportunity to ask Urban Growth directly what their plans are for the female factory.

Our new hard copy petition to Federal Parliament had passed 1,400 so keep up the good work and spread those petitions around! If we can get this to parliament by July that would be amazing and would give more credence for the 2 year long assessment for national heritage and would mean debate in Federal Parliament.

More good news is our newly signed Memorandum of Understanding with North Parramatta Resident Action Group which will send a message to government that communities are combining together. This is not just one voice. Of course we will also continue our advocacy separately but combine on those things where numbers are significant.

We have our vision for a living museum and national resource centre for the female factory so now your committee is working on a wider vision for the Parramatta North Urban Transformation plans as this will impact on our dear factory! You will hear more about this soon and certainly send in your ideas on what the wider vision would include. Recently, the future of the Museum of Applied Arts and Science was discussed in Parliament. An alternative site is being looked at....ummm perhaps the female factory?

On the social front we are already looking at our Riot Day event and our speaker list but we are also looking at other ways we can get together and enjoy celebrating our great history. Again if you have any ideas on who you would like to hear from or what you want to hear more about on our speaker list then send your thoughts to our email parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com, send a note or ring me on 0447189137 and we will see what we can do.

Our March meeting will include a great talk on convict women by Dr Carol Liston, one not to be missed. So mark your diary for 1:30 March 18th for this one.

This year certainly promises to be a very active one for 'the Friends'. Enjoy your newsletter and hope to see you soon at our next meeting.

Yours in community

Gay Hendriksen

NOTICEBOARD

- A warm welcome to new PFFF members – *Betty Birnie Tougher, Heidi Brown, Wendy Robinson, Kim Harford, Katherine Knight, Linda Pulley, Felicity Castagna* and the *Port Macquarie Historical Society*. Thank you also to Wendy for her generous donation.
- Congratulations to *Enid Turbitt* of the Parramatta & District Historical Society for her Australia Day Award!
- Don't forget to visit our exhibition at Hambledon Cottage, Hassall Street, Parramatta - '*Herstory-Lives of the Parramatta Female Factory Women*' - Thursday to Sunday 11am - 4pm.
(Note: The Cottage will be closed for repairs from 3rd March – mid April 2016).
- Watch out for the National Trust Heritage Festival '*Discovery-Rediscoveries*' 16th April - 29th May 2016 - there will be walks & talks – historical of course! Our Vice President, Judith Dunn OAM will be giving a talk on the Factory Women on Thursday 21st April at Hambledon Cottage. See the NT Festival information booklet.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - 2016

Meetings – guest speaker at 1:30pm and **General Meeting** at 2:00pm

When: the 3rd Friday of every **second** month

Friday: 18th March, 20th May, 15th July, 16th September, 18th November 2016

SPEAKER at the March Meeting is Prof. Carol Liston speaking about her recent female convict research.

SPECIAL EVENTS: 'IT'S A RIOT!' - Friday October 28th 2016

Christmas Celebration Friday December 16th 2016

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Due to repairs we are unable to hold our regular Meetings at Hambledon Cottage. Our temporary home is at the Granville Historical Society rooms at 62 Railway Parade, Granville, and a short walk from Granville railway station. See <http://www.granvillehistorical.org.au/> for image and map. It is envisaged that we will be at our usual venue Hambledon Cottage Coach House for the meeting on **Friday 20th May 2016**.

HISTORY CORNER

Life in the Parramatta Female Factory was most productive as this advertisement from the *Ladies' Committee of the Female Factory* indicates.

The 'sewing' available at the Factory was varied and included 'slop' (1) clothes, bed gowns, Babies long Gowns and caps'. Sewing included garments for both 'gentlemen and servants'.

The money raised by the women's work was a reward and they could receive a Certificate of good Behaviour!

It is interesting to note that the Secretary of the Ladies' Committee of the Female Factory was Elizabeth Marsden, wife of the Rev. Samuel Marsden. (2)

(1) 'Slops' was the name given to standard issue clothing for convicts and servants. On entry to the Factory, the women were issued with their 'slops' of brown or blue serge or 'Stuff-Gown'. "Slops" was also a vernacular term for naval uniforms.

(2) Source: Sydney Gazette & New South Wales Advertiser -Dec 24 1828 (image right)

LADIES' COMMITTEE of the FEMALE FACTORY, beg to inform the PUBLIC, that any Article of CLOATHING will be made up to Order, at the above Institution (Thread, Needles, and all other Materials, to be found by the Individuals requiring the Work), at the following Prices; viz.

Slop Cloathing, consisting of	2	s.	d.
Jackets and Trowsers	0	2	6
Slop Shirts, each	0	0	8
Fines, for House Servants.....	0	1	6 to 2s.
Ditto for Gentlemen	0	3	6
Waistcoats, per dozen	1	10	0
Women Servants' Gowns.....	0	3	6
Ditto Bed-gowns	0	2	0
Children's Frocks	0	1	6 to 2s.
Babies' long Robes	0	2	0
Caps	0	1	6
Petticoats	0	1	0

 &c. &c. &c.

and other Articles, on equally reasonable Terms; the Object being to find the Women Employment when not engaged in their Government Work, and to raise a small Fund for rewarding those who continue in one Service, and receive a Certificate of good Behaviour from their Master and Mistress, for the following Periods:—

For one Year	£0	15	0
For two Years	1	0	0
For every additional Year	0	10	0

E. MARSDEN, SECRETARY.

A VOYAGE TO THE COLONY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

'THE ALMORAH' ARRIVES IN SYDNEY COVE

(The final extract from Surgeon Superintendent Morgan Price's Journal c1824)

RESEARCH : NOELA VRANICH

After a voyage of 136 days the Almorah at last reached its destination on:-

Friday, August 20th

The Prisoners, free women and children all in a good state of Health- Between decks as before Cleaned and ventilated.

At 1pm arrived in Port Jackson.

On Saturday August 21st, "new clothing" was issued to the convicts.

It wasn't until Tuesday 24th, that Major Frederick Goulburn, the Colonial Secretary came on board to complete the official muster.



Image: entering Pt. Jackson c1800

Thursday, August 26th

All the prisoners Disembarked under the Superintendence of Major Goulburn for Parramatta in good health, after having been on board upwards of five months. The performance of this Voyage considering the number of Children and old women on board has been accomplished only with the loss of Two, one of whom was a Prisoner who expired instantly- the other a free child- who suffered considerably at the commencement of the Voyage from the Measles.....

It seems odd that Morgan Price didn't mention in the above entry, the deaths of twin baby girls whose births were detailed earlier that month in his journal as follows:-

Tuesday, August 10th

At 10am delivered Catherine Moran of two female Children- previous to her embarkation she acknowledged the father to be the under-gaoler at Cork who was turned out of his Situation in Consequence -from Several Circumstances I have every reason it is a Premature Birth and there is no hope of the Children living.

Wednesday, August 11th

Moran- as well as can be expected but no hopes of the infants living.

Thursday, August 12th

Moran- as well as can be expected- the two infants Died during the night- at noon Buried the two Children.

By Thursday, August 19th all his patients (including Catherine Moran) were "nearly well" and then on the next day - the day after the arrival, he notes that "Prisoners, free women and children in good state of Health" - it seems they may have willed themselves well in readiness for their arrival.

Morgan Price's final entry is a list of "Observations" as follows:-

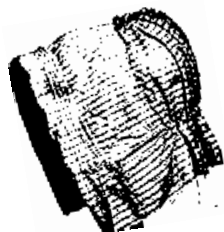
- i. That during the Voyage whenever the weather was fine - Prisoners and free women with their Children on deck - Beds also brought up every morning.*
- ii. Prison and between decks Cleaned every morning before Breakfast and kept dry - it was at all times Clean and Comfortable.*
- iii. They Washed Cloaths twice a week - The whole were frequently mustered twice a week - but always every Sunday.*
- iv. Particular attention paid to personal Cleanliness - During the warm Weather the Bathing Tub placed in the hatchway every evening with a proper Screen and a third of them bathed every Evening.*
- v. Soap were issued to the convict and free women twice a week.*

vi. Wine Lemon Juice and Sugar were alternatively given them - Their Rations regularly issued and two of the Prisoners attended the Steward in order to see the Provisions were of just weight- it was regularly Cooked and given at proper meal hours.

vii. The behaviour of the Convicts during the Voyage were as well as I possible could expect- Children during the day at school- old women employed in knitting.

M.P

MORE OF 'OUR GIRLS' PROFILES – RESEARCH: BETH MATTHEWS 1ST INSTALMENT – ELIZABETH BROWNING OWEN



Elizabeth Browning was born in Roxton, Bedfordshire in 1790 to John Browning (1764 - 1818) and Hannah Addington (1767 -1798).

Elizabeth married a Robert Owen who was born in 1780 in Huyton, Lancashire, son of Robert Owen and Sarah Ford. Elizabeth and Robert had four children.

Elizabeth was tried at the Surrey Assizes on 25th March 1820 and sentenced to fourteen years transportation - she was convicted being in “possession of forged Bank notes”. She embarked the ship *Morley* in London. The ship carried 121 prisoners of whom 50 were landed in Hobart and the other 71 sent onto Sydney. In the ship’s muster Elizabeth is described as a needleworker, aged 28 years.

The journal of the Ship’s Surgeon Thomas Reid notes, “Mrs Fry (Quaker) and Mrs Pryor visited the ship at Deptford..... gave articles of comfort and convenience to the women – bibles, secular tracts, children’s books and straw for plaiting were distributed”.

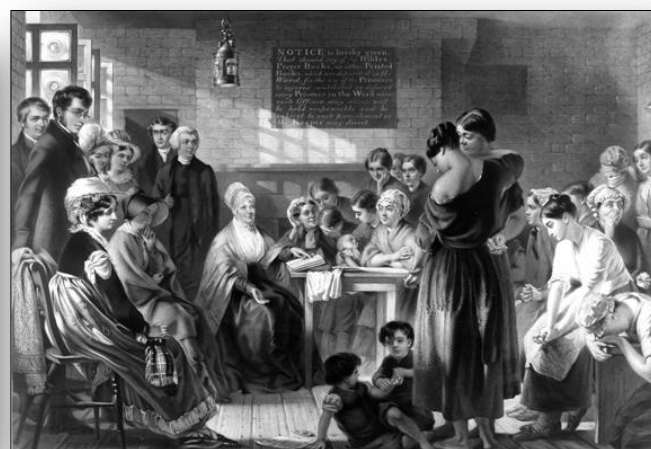
A list of clothing issued to the convicts and free women on board the *Morley* included “120 brown serge jackets, 120 petticoats, 240 linen shifts, 120 linen caps, 120 pr stockings, 12 handkerchiefs, 170 beds, complete, 3 cots and hung hammocks”. For the male children, “ 17 kesey jackets, 17 waistcoats, 17 prs raven dick trowsers, 51 shirts, 34 pr Stockings, 17 handkerchiefs, 17 pr shoes.”

Fifty women were landed in Hobart in September 1820 – thirty female convicts disembarked in Sydney on Tuesday 19th September and forwarded to Parramatta by government boats on 22nd September. Among the children who accompanied the women were Elizabeth and Robert’s children listed as – “Browning Owen 1 boy 9 years, 1 girl 7 years, 1 boy 5 years and 1 girl 3 years.” They were John, Eliza, Robert and Elizabeth.

Elizabeth was assigned to the Female Factory Parramatta and her two daughters were sent to the Female Orphan School.



The Female Orphan School - Augustus Earle – NLA



Elizabeth Fry reading the Bible with Convict Women in Newgate- SLNSW

AUSTRALIA DAY 2016 - A SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATION!



Jon (NPRAG) & Ronda (PFFF) – on the NPRAG stall side



Pauline (PFFF) & Suzette (NPRAG)



Leslie (NPRAG) & Halina (NPRAG) – at the PFFF stall



Rob (NPRAG) & Pauline (PFFF) "spruiking" the cause!

On Australia Day 2016, the North Parramatta Residents' Action Group and the Parramatta Female Factory Friends shared a promotional stall in Parramatta Park.

The stall was centrally located straight up from the Tudor Gate entrance so there was a constant stream of visitors. There was so much community support regarding the significance of and the value of heritage in North Parramatta and, the imperative of community consultation for the appropriate development of the site.

Thank you to NPRAG for their support and especially to Suzette Meade (NPRAG President) for the invitation to participate. Thank you to Pauline who looked wonderful in her mop cap and did such a sterling job with gathering signatures on the petition, to Anne Mathews who helped set up and to Kerima-Gae for fiscal support!

It was a long, hot day but so well worth the effort for us in maximising publicity, making a few sales of our 'Herstory Matters' promotional badges and informative bookmarks as well as attracting new members!

Ronda Gaffey

PARRAMATTA CITY COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE GROUP STUDY TOUR, CUMBERLAND EAST PRECINCT 21/11/2015

In November last year, PFFF Committee members, Noela Vranich and Anne Mathews were part of a group who visited the Cumberland East Precinct which includes the Parramatta Female Factory site. The group comprised the Lord Mayor Cllr Paul Garrard with some of his Councillors, representatives from Urban Growth NSW and the Western Sydney Local Health District. The group was led on a tour of the site by Sean Williams, Snr. Heritage Architect with TKDA, Consultants to Urban Growth. This is part of Noela's report.

Sean Williams guided us around the precinct, both on foot and by bus, thus enabling a comprehensive coverage of the area to be developed. He informed us that work on salvaging the buildings in worst repair would begin in the early New Year, to make them stable and waterproof, until major refurbishment could take place at a later time during the redevelopment of the site. Any repairs would use authentic, original components such as replacing roof shingles with Welsh slate, which has already been ordered.

Questions I asked were:-

- *about the proposed building in the Gipps Yard still appearing on the Plan.*

Ans: *This and others in the vicinity of the heritage buildings would be needed as "support" for all the retained and upgraded heritage buildings!*

- *what impact will the current National Heritage investigation have?*

Ans: *None, as Urban Growth are in favour of National Heritage Listing (this decision is due in 2019!)*

- *would the "green spaces" be retained for full public use?*

Ans: *Yes, they would all be "Open public use", on the proviso that the Council would accept them as their responsibility. (The Lord Mayor agreed with this proviso – though this is **unofficial**).*

*-please clarify which heritage buildings will **not** remain in public hands? (UG states that "most/many heritage buildings will remain in public hands").*

Ans: *Could **not** answer yet!*

- *would there be a pathway built over the causeway?*

Ans: *Urban Growth thought this was a great idea and would look into the possibility.*

Other responses to questions included the following:-

Ans: *Archaeology would be extensive on the site, no plan is final for anything yet, it is all still open to change and will have to be put to Council for approval.*

Ans: *The Conservation Management Plan won't be finished and submitted until the D/A goes in and will probably **not** be publicly available.*

Following the Cumberland Hospital and Factory site tour the group moved on to the Norma Parker Centre where we saw the major improvements to these buildings following the fire.

The tour ended at the 3rd class Sleeping Quarters where Sean guided us through the interior, accentuating how important this building was in the overall scheme of things.

Noela Vranich



The 3rd Class Sleeping Quarters c1821 – photo: Gay Hendriksen

“HISTORY BEYOND THE CLASSROOM” – BY MICHAEL REES

As for so many of us, the magic, the history and future survival of the Parramatta Female Factory site has captured Michael Rees, an undergraduate history student (University of Sydney) who recently worked on a special project in collaboration with the Friends – this is his report.

As part of a university subject called ‘History Beyond the Classroom’, I spent the second half of 2015 producing a video about the historical significance of the Parramatta Female Factory. The video entitled ‘Remembering A Riot’ uses footage from the Parramatta Female Factory Friends’ Riot Day commemoration to provide members of the public with an insight into the 1827 Riot at the factory and to highlight the original factory’s remaining features.

My first contact with the PFFF was when Gay Hendriksen invited me to witness the presentation of a 10,000 petition to the NSW Parliament to protect the site from development. I was amazed and inspired by the diverse community which supported the cause – from trade unionists to local resident action groups and descendants of the female factory workers. Like many Australians, I had never realised the incredible historical significance of this site and knew nothing of the threat which development posed to this piece of Australian history.

With guidance from Gay and other members of the Parramatta Female Factory Friends, I started filming at the factory site in an attempt to document some of the remaining features of the factory. During ‘Riot Day’ (23rd October 2015), I recorded members of the public engaging with this history. The footage, along with primary sources about the 1827 Riot, provided the basis for ‘Remembering A Riot’.

In ‘Remembering a Riot’ I also attempt to contrast the reverence with which the public treats other historical sites from this era such as Hyde Park Barracks and Cadman’s Cottage with the Female Factory. Given the importance of the factory as a colonial, feminist and working class historical site, I believe that its neglect has been inexcusable and must be rectified before we lose this important piece of Australian history.

If you are interested in the final video which I produced for the course, as well as the video recordings of the guest speakers from Riot Day, please visit:

<http://historybeyondtheclassroom.jimdo.com/student-projects/the-documentarians/michael-rees/>

I hope that these videos help the Factory Friends to increase the public presence of the campaign to protect the site. I recognise however that they are only the beginning of what is required. I would also be interested in filming tours of the factory site conducted by the Friends so that people who cannot attend Riot Day commemorations can also appreciate the significance of the Parramatta Female Factory.

I would like to thank everyone who helped with my project. In particular, I would like to thank Gay Hendriksen and the Friends for providing me with extensive background material about the history of the factory and the political campaign for the site’s preservation. I would also like to thank Michael Mc Donnell and Michaela Cameron for all their assistance with developing ideas and producing the final videos.



Michael Rees



Riot Day – Gay with tour group - photo: Michael Rees

STOP PRESS !
A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING IS SIGNED
BETWEEN THE PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS AND
THE NORTH PARRAMATTA RESIDENTS' ACTION GROUP!

The Memorandum of Understanding is another step in our advocacy for the appropriate use and development of the Parramatta Female Factory site.

We look forward to working with NPRAG with whom we share a common purpose of saving the precinct as a highly significant social, economic and cultural asset for all Australians.

The event was well covered in the Parramatta Advertiser (10th February 2016 edition) under the headline '*Battlers Unite to Save Precinct*'! (1)



Some Likely Lads and Lasses behind the factory walls!

Judith Dunn (PFFF) Rob Macqueen (NPRAG), Suzette Meade, Jon Hillman (NPRAG) & Alice Kershaw (PFFF)
photo: courtesy: Suzette Meade

(1) Parramatta Advertiser back copies are available online <http://newslocal.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/viewer.asp>



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