

Patrons: Meg Keneally
Thomas Michael Keneally AO

PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO:13

SPECIAL SUMMER EDITION - JANUARY 2017

Contact: parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com or PO Box 1358 Parramatta 2124

PFFF website: parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au

History: parramattafemalefactories.wordpress.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/parrafactory/>



The Parramatta Female Factory - Augustus Earle 1826 –courtesy National Library of Australia –nla.gov.au/nla.pic-an 2818460

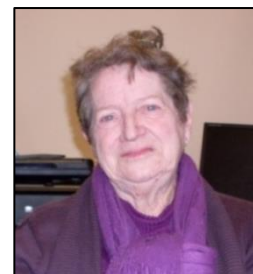
President: June Bullivant OAM **Vice President:** Judith Dunn OAM
Treasurer/Public Officer: Kerima-Gae Topp
Secretary: Alice Kershaw **Newsletter/Publicity:** Ronda Gaffey
History Project: Anne Mathews Beth Matthews

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2017
MEMBERS' MEETINGS – 3rd Friday of every 2nd Month
NEXT GENERAL MEETING: Friday February 17th 2017
(guest speaker 1:30pm followed by meeting 2:30pm)
THE COACH HOUSE , HAMBLEDON COTTAGE,
PARRAMATTA

Content	Page
President.....	2
History Corner.....	3
Out and About.....	4
“Our Girls”.....	5
Noticeboard.....	6
Advocacy Corner.....	7

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Happy New Year to all members and thank you for your support and membership which allows us to plan our vision for saving the unique area that is the "Female Factory Footprint".



At a recently convened PFFF Advocacy Meeting with Committee and Gay Hendriksen it was decided to include an "Advocacy" section in our newsletter. The aim is to keep you informed of issues as well as invite your comments and ideas to help in our advocacy to preserve the site. If you don't use Facebook, then email us or slow mail and we will post your comments for you. We are working with groups to spread the word, putting ideas forward and want to let you know about them. This creates a network of like minds who share our information, gaining a wider audience.

Most people including me, do not like to march and wield "a big stick" to protest their displeasure; some people like me like to tickle the decision makers such as Lucy Turnbull (Greater Sydney Commission) under the chin "with a feather" by highlighting their decisions and creating a Blog to share our displeasure at the decisions made, for example:

<https://junebullivantoam.wordpress.com/2016/12/14/gsc-great-sydney-con/>

This video is a little long however it shows why as a group we are having trouble convincing the decision makers of our ideas for this precious site.

<https://junebullivantoam.wordpress.com/2016/12/13/nsw-state-architect-rolls-in-his-grave-200-years-later-work-faces-destruction/>

As part of an advocacy strategy, we have enlisted the support of AIMN which is an independent media network with over 3.4 million members and which provides another forum to raise issues. You will note that at this stage articles will be from individuals and not with the PFFF logo or name since the view represented may not be PFFF endorsed.

We are also following up on a suggestion from a member and will produce a standard letter that can be personalised to send to politicians, media and Facebook so you as a member can be a "big stick" or a "feather" or both. It is important to note that the change of Premier in NSW will not affect our focus due to the fact that with change of leadership, policies do not change.

Our first meeting of 2017 is Friday 17th February with guest speaker at 1:30pm. To launch the New Year, Gay Hendriksen will be outlining a core advocacy concept, *Museum of Australian Identity*. There will also be an opportunity to discuss future advocacy plans. We also invite you to share your ideas at the meeting. If you require information at any time, please contact us at parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com

Recently the Committee approved the renewal of the PFFF website. Thank you to Gay for taking the time to update the site parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au

A reminder that our Patrons Meg and Tom Keneally will be launching their new book, *"The Unmourned"* which is set in Parramatta, in the next month or two. When we have any information, we will pass it on to members.

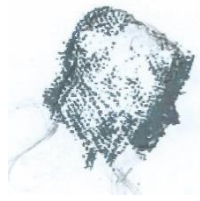
Finally a warm welcome to new members, *Julie Dunesky, Margaret Johnson, Warren Mann, Norma Maurer, Claudia Graham, Dorothy Scott, Frank Williams, Pat Worrall, Patricia McGowan, Ron Marriott and Vera Myronenko.*

Thank you to Ronda Gaffey for taking time in collating and editing this special Summer edition of our Newsletter.

President
June Bullivant OAM

HISTORY CORNER – FROM THE NEWSPAPER ARCHIVES

A significant event took place on **Thursday 1st February 1821**. The “new” factory was ready to receive the female convicts- 107 women were mustered and along with 70 children were marched down to their new abode. One wonders what was in their minds as they walked from the “old gaol.” Governor Lachlan Macquarie was present at their reception.



GOVERNMENT AND GENERAL ORDERS.
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, SYDNEY, 27th JAN. 1821.
CIVIL DEPARTMENT.
THE New Factory, for the Lodging and Employment of the Female Convicts, lately erected in the Neighbourhood of Parramatta, being reported ready for their Reception, it is ordered and directed, that they be accordingly removed thither from the Old Factory in Parramatta, and their other Quarters there, on Thursday the 1st of February next ensuing, at the Hour of Eight in the Morning of that Day.
 By His Excellency the Governor's Command,
JOHN THOMAS CAMPBELL.



And, the wall cost 500 pounds! Note the payment to Messrs. Watkins and Payton.

GOVERNMENT AND GENERAL ORDERS.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE, 17th FEBRUARY, 1821.
CIVIL DEPARTMENT.

HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR has been pleased to direct the following **STATEMENTS** of the **COLONIAL POLICE** and **ORPHAN INSTITUTIONS FUNDS**, for the Quarter ended the 31st December last, to be published for general Information.

By His Excellency's Command,
FREDERICK GOULBURN, Colonial Secretary.

WILLIAM MINCHIN, Esq. Treasurer of the Police Fund, New South Wales, in Account with the Trustees, from the 30th September to 31st December, 1820.

Dr.	£.	s.	d.
To paid Messrs. Watkins and Payton, on Account of the New Wall erecting round the Factory, Parramatta....	500	0	0
Mr. James Wilshire, for Leather, Soap, Glue, &c. for the Use of Government.....	428	4	6
Evidences for the Crown on Criminal Prosecutions.....	273	10	0

Source: Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser – trove.nla.gov.au/

OUT AND ABOUT



Anne Mathews and Beth Matthews (above)



Anne and Ronda Gaffey



A sample of goods for sale and publicity/advocacy material at the PFFF stall in Centenary Square in December 2016 – NPRAG “Hands Off Our Assets” Rally.

SARAH MCGREGOR

Sarah McGregor was born in Liverpool and convicted of shoplifting at the Liverpool Borough Quarter Sessions on 26th April 1830. She had a previous conviction of 14 days and was transported for seven years.

Sarah embarked the ship *Kains* that sailed from the Downs on 8th July 1830 with 120 female prisoners on board; here were 2 deaths on the voyage which took 246 days, about 100 days longer than other ships at this time. The ship arrived in NSW 11th March 1831. The Ship’s Surgeon, Dr Thrascycles Clark wrote the following in his journal

If there was a hell afloat, it must have been in the shape of a female convict ship - quarrelling, fighting, thieving, destroying each other’s property from a mere spirit of devilishness, conversation with each other most abandoned, without feeling or shame.....

In the ship’s muster Sarah is described as 16 years old, could read and write, Catholic, born Liverpool, a nurse girl. She was 5 ft. tall, a ruddy complexion, light brown hair and brown eyes with a scar [?] under her right eye.

Sarah was assigned from the Parramatta Female Factory in 1832 to Robert Lowe of Bringelly, as a house servant. Sarah was returned to the factory two years later following a charge of murder. Sarah and Mary Maloney were charged with the murder of Captain Waldron to whom they had been assigned. The women were sentenced to death but were later pardoned and sent to the factory, 3rd class.

A letter to the Committee of Management Female Factory dated 5th February 1835, states

Gentlemen, His Majesty having been pleased to grant a pardon to Sarah McGregor and Mary Maloney, convicted of the murder of their late Capt. Waldron, on condition of their being imprisoned and kept at hard labour for three years. I am directed by H.E. the Governor, to inform you that the Sherrif has received instructions to forward them from his custody to the Third Class of thee Factory to undergo the above sentence. Signed T.Harrington

A letter from the Police Office, Parramatta dated 31st October 1836 names three women, Mary Maloney, Sarah McGregor and Lucy Dickenson as being in the 3rd class of the Female Factory “*under a long sentence, whose influence over the other women and whose disparate character must under the effort to cause infringement unassailing so long as they are there.*”

The recommendation was that they be transferred to Port Macquarie. This occurred some months later. A letter dated 1 August 1837 has a list of six female convicts including Sarah McGregor, *Kains* “*now in Sydney Gaol to be embarked the steamer the William the Fourth for conveyance to Port Macquarie, this evening....*”

There are two other references found for Sarah: A marriage is registered in St Thomas’ Church Port Macquarie for *Samuel Morting (per York)* aged 31 and *Sarah McGregor (per Kains)* aged 23, on 24th December 1837 and, a Certificate of Freedom butt has been found for Sarah dated 23rd February 1841.



St Thomas’ Anglican Church, Port Macquarie – built by convict labour 1824-1828

The ship *Kains* was beset with any number of problems which contributed to its long journey - there had been an attempted mutiny by the crew, it had been becalmed, and had sailed through heavy seas and suffered storm damage en route to NSW.

Charles Picknell, one of the seamen on board, had kept a diary which some years later was published in the Sydney Morning Herald. He was a keen observer and records events with an honesty and humanity. The following are a few extracts:

30 June - took in prisoners from newgate. all ironed and crying

1 July - took in prisoners from liverpool and manchester. heavy irons

7 July - All prisoners on board. Three quakers came on board praying with them and giving them all kinds of things....

He recorded the death of one female convict thus:

she twenty five years of age....12 o'clock sewed up. prayers and throwed her overboard. crying all over the ship.

In an entry dated 18th October He also recorded the death of the youngest child on board –
...belong to an Irish girl. born newgate. 8 months old.

His final entry was on the last day of 1830 in which he notes that
Prisoners and sailors sung the old year out, the new one in.

It would seem that some traditions were kept despite transportation!



Newgate Prison London – west view by George Shepherd

Sources:

“Our Girls” – unpublished work by Beth Matthews and Anne Mathews from original papers: SRNSW
http://www.jenniewilletts.com/convict_ship_kains1831.htm

NOTICEBOARD

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

- 2017 – **General Meeting Friday 17th February** with our Guest Speaker, Gay Hendriksen.



In 2017 we aim to keep you informed of updates regarding the female factory site through the *Advocacy Corner* section of the newsletter. We aim to provide links to information, invite your suggestions as to what advocacy strategies we might adopt as well as providing you with an opportunity to let us know what you have been doing in your community or organisation to support us.

To begin, the following is a summary of key points from recent **UGNSW documents** discussed at the January Committee/Advocacy Meeting. (Urban Growth NSW was formed in 2013 replacing Landcom – it is the NSW Government’s urban transformation agency overseeing a wide range of urban projects across the state).

Summary of Key Points – UGNSW 2016

- * **A Heritage Core** has been identified by UGNSW at the Parramatta Female Factory Precinct (inclusive elements such walls, 3 colonial buildings which include 3rd Class Sleeping Quarters, Hospital and the Matron’s Quarters, as well as Ward 1 and Roman Catholic Orphan School)
- * Within this heritage core UGNSW have identified buildings and elements which are of “**exceptional heritage significance**” and which is stated will be “**retained, conserved and adapted.**” At this stage there is no indication of which buildings will **remain in public ownership.**
- * UGNSW states there are **no plans** as yet regarding the **use/readaptive use** of the female factory site buildings.
- * UGNSW is preparing a **report** of the numerous ideas presented at the November 2016 community event (Sprout). These include museum, creative arts spaces, and small business start -ups. (Various visions for the site are on the UGNSW website under the link, SPROUT)
- * UGNSW states there will be **further consultation** with “stakeholders” which includes community groups, business innovators, independent heritage experts, NSW Health, artists, other government agencies and Parramatta Council in early 2017.
- * In December 2016 a DA was lodged by UGNSW for **Stage 1 development** of the North Parramatta Precinct. PFFF anticipate an invitation to view this document and respond to it once it is on public exhibition. No new buildings are proposed in this first DA however it details infrastructure for roads etc. at the northern part of the precinct. Council have asked for further details.
- * **Repairs** have begun on some buildings on the North Parramatta Precinct but not buildings within the Female Factory site as yet.
- * UGNSW states that **geotechnical and archaeological investigations** are now underway.
- * UGNSW states that their conservation investigation and planning will enable consideration of **National Heritage Listing.**

