



**PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS INC.
NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO: 16 JULY-AUGUST 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/pffriends/>
 Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/pffriends/>
 Petition: <https://www.change.org/p/parramatta-female-factory-federal-petition-for-world-heritage>



The Parramatta Female Factory - Augustus Earle 1826 – nla.pic-an2818460 National Library of Australia (NLA)

Patrons: Meg Keneally & Thomas Michael Keneally AO
President: June Bullivant OAM **Vice President:** Judith Dunn OAM
Treasurer/Public Officer: Kerima-Gae Topp
Secretary: Alice Kershaw
Committee: History Project Anne Mathews Beth Matthews
Pub/Newsletter: Ronda Gaffey

The next meeting is **the AGM at 1:30pm. FRIDAY 18th August 2017**
 at the Coach House, Hambledon Cottage.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Dear Members

Your Committee have been extremely busy this year with the multitude of happenings in Parramatta. The City of Parramatta Council, is really rushing to put their administration plans in place prior to the September 2017 elections so our communication to members have been a priority. It would be remiss of me not to thank the 2016-17 Committee, a cohesive group of extremely talented and hardworking people, with the work they have done being over and above what a volunteer committee should have had to deal with.

Committee and members have been attending important briefings on your behalf; these have included attending Council seminars, meeting with UGNSW, attending the UGNSW SPROUT community forum regarding the future use of the "historic core", representing PFFF at Council meetings, and meeting with politicians. PFFF Vice President Judith Dunn OAM is also a Royal Australian Historical Society RAHS Councillor which allows the *Friends* a voice at a national level as well as within the wider community of Family History groups. Judith has also maintained an extensive *Site Watch* library - she has been taking photos of the workings in and around the factory site, and documenting concerns which have been invaluable. Thank you also to Kerima-Gae Topp for her expertise as Public Officer and Treasurer. We now have an ABN which allows the PFFF to apply for Council and government grants. PFFF were also successful in obtaining a grant from Parramatta Leagues Club again this year which will help fund Riot Day. We have a healthy bank balance, thanks to Kerima-Gae's skilful management. Thank you to Alice Kershaw who is a member of a number of organisations which face similar issues to PFFF. These connections have proved invaluable with Alice attending various Upper House inquiries (MAAS) as well as assisting me with my President's tasks.

The Research and Tours team, Beth Matthews and Anne Mathews have spoken to 950 people this year and conducted tours for 350 people; Anne and Beth spent three days at the Annual *Federation of NSW & ACT Family History* Conference at Camden last September which attracted much interest in the factory site and opportunity to network. A dedicated team of members; Kaye Weaver, Pauline Garmonsway, Beth, Anne, Ronda and Alice have manned information stalls this year collecting a multitude of petitions, selling merchandise and also spreading the word. Thanks to the team at NPRAG who have also assisted with collecting petitions. The World Heritage Listing Petitions collected so far are 2861 (online) and 3169 (hard copy) which is quite an achievement. Membership has grown due to the work of our ambassadors in doing talks, taking tours and being *out there*. Our publicity officer Ronda Gaffey, has taken the PFFF to the wider Australian Community with two successful articles in the *Australia Family History Tree Connection* magazine and in producing the bi-monthly newsletter which has become an excellent way of communicating with members and groups. Anne's and Beth's ongoing research is the inspiration for this publication which is now in numerous family history libraries. Ronda has also devoted hours attending the seminars and meetings run by Parramatta Heritage Partners, Urban Growth and City of Parramatta Council and, digesting pages of information; this time consuming task was then turned into a very professional submission and a template was sent to all members; 1027 submissions were lodged to Council by the network of groups who are trying to save the Female Factory Precinct.

I would like to also thank members and supporters who have offered their expertise and assisted with writing submissions. It is fortunate the members who volunteered for the tasks are very capable and have represented PFFF in a very professional manner. Our focus this year has also included activities for members, with guest speakers at meetings, a members' viewing of the archaeology at the Parramatta North site, a special members' event in July as well as tours of the *Herstory* exhibition.

This year PFFF Meg Keneally and Thomas Michael Keneally AO accepted positions as Patrons which has been much appreciated. Meg and Tom have been generous with their time and have consistently supported us in our advocacy. When they were asked if they would video a message that we could use in our campaign, they answered in the positive. This was posted to Facebook and continues to attract support and assist with ongoing publicity and advocacy regarding PFFF and community concerns for the site. Meg and Tom are very hard working campaigners and are using this to

contact their networks and are organising people who can assist our cause. Meg also provided a speech which was read out on her and Tom's behalf at the recent Council meeting which was much appreciated and received local press coverage.

Recently Meg and Tom were generous taking time out to attend the PFFF inaugural *Members' Only* event at Hambledon Cottage which provided an excellent opportunity for members to meet Meg and Tom and share our common passion for the factory site and its history.

I must thank the Parramatta & District Historical Society for their support in including the PFFF in their National Trust Heritage Festival Talks programme, for hosting PFFF meetings and events at Hambledon Cottage and for facilitating the *Herstory* exhibition which is now well into its second year. This has been an outstanding success and P&DHS have kindly extended the run until October this year. The display has been regularly updated by Anne, Ronda and Beth and has attracted visitors from around the State and also Interstate. Many descendants have made contact and generously shared their history and photographs. A descendant of Elizabeth Fry has also visited the exhibition. Congratulations also to Anne, Terry Fitzell and Wayne Mathews for the detailed models of the colonial buildings which are now in the exhibition at Hambledon Cottage. We believe this is a "first". The book which was produced to accompany this exhibition has also proved popular.

Our 2016 Riot Day was extremely successful with over 350 attending. Riot Day in October this year will be a special event as it is the 190th Anniversary of the 1827 riot. We plan a *Herstory* display incorporating new material and organised tours for people attending.

The Committee has been planning the Bi-Centenary for the Female Factory in 2018, thus we have sent out 25 letters to politicians and organisations seeking their support and involvement. The work we have been doing is having an effect on decision making, and the Bi-centenary has received a very favourable reception with a number of high profile people and organisations wanting to help.

Following the Premier's announcement about the works at the North Parramatta Cumberland Hospital site and with three TV channels reporting on it earlier this year, there was good coverage of our concerns which is very hard to achieve. This was shared across our networks and has resulted in over 54,408 views on social media pages including the PFFF Facebook page. Getting the word out there about the Factory through social media is absolutely priceless.
<https://www.facebook.com/pffriends/>

PFFF has created networks with the National Trust, ICOMOS and the Aboriginal Community and it is gratifying to see so many supporters beavering away to help the cause that PFFF have fought so fiercely for over five years. A lot of voluntary work, hours and effort has been put in by our members and I would like to take this time to thank our supporters for caring enough about our Aboriginal, Colonial and contemporary history to give their time to this worthwhile cause on behalf of all Australians.

The PFFF Committee has been looking over the changes that the Department of Fair Trading has implemented, and also reviewed the By-laws. After the Committee finishes with the review over the next two months, these will go before members to be approved and submitted to the Department as legal documents. For these elections, PFFF will be still under the constitution model rules they were incorporated under.

Once again I thank the Committee on your behalf for the work they have done to progress the *Friends* which allows the *Herstory* voices to be heard and to have their place in Australian History. I would like to thank members for their support for the year. I have thoroughly enjoyed the challenge however there is still a lot to do regarding the future development of the Female Factory Precinct and for the Bi-centenary in 2018. If I am fortunate to be re-elected for 2017-18, I will endeavour to continue the work we have put in place this year.

June M Bullivant OAM
President

NOTICEBOARD

- PFFF AGM is at 1:30pm, **Friday 18th August 2017**.
Nomination forms are available from the Secretary Alice Kershaw 0422 072 411 or email parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com
- If you would like to volunteer for the **Riot Day Organising Committee**, a meeting will be held in the Coach House at Hambledon Cottage on the 18th August 2017 at 12 noon prior to the AGM.
- Riot Day this year is **Friday 27th October** - the **190th Anniversary** of the 2017 Riot!
- Dates for your diary: General Meetings for the remainder of the year are Friday **October 20th** and **December 15th**. PFFF Newsletters are due in September and November.
- A very warm welcome to new members *Suzanne Newbury, Vincent Ashton, Michael Tubbs, Emily Andrade, Susan Thompson, Dianne Castle, Toni Calder, Kathryn Matthews, Peter Murphy, Christina Paton, Kristine Needham, Judith Gooden, Lynette Watkins, Paul Wheeldon, Lesley Potter, Ingrid O'Neil, Iain Wilson and Beverley Clohessy.*
- **A significant event** occurred on 22nd June 2017 when the Heritage Council assessed the Parramatta Female Precinct as having "heritage value". The final determination for **National Heritage Listing** is now with Minister Josh Frydenberg. We are so close now to accomplishing a long-held dream.



This is the second of three exquisitely detailed Fitzell - Mathews Parramatta Female Factory models - the 3rd Class Sleeping Quarters (c 1823-5) which is currently featured in the *Herstory* Exhibition at Hambledon Cottage. Photographer: Bob Cook.



The 3rd Class Sleeping Quarters today - the verandah was added at a later period - photo: Beth Matthews

HISTORY CORNER



Above: Fountain at Entrance to Parramatta Lunatic Asylum (late 19thc). The clock tower of Asylum Ward 1, now the Institute of Psychiatry, can be seen in the distance.
Source: Parramatta Heritage Centre (LSP00124).



Right: A fountain from the Asylum period near the Factory/Asylum entrance site is a shadow of its former self but still there!

FROM THE FAMILY ARCHIVES

Three weeks ago, *Jan Neaves* forwarded this lovely photograph of her 3 x great grandmother *Ann Watts* (nee O'Brien). The photo was taken in the early 1870s - when Ann was possibly 60 years of age. Ann, who was a factory woman, was featured in the PFFF March - April Newsletter. Thank you Jan and Graeme Watts for sharing this family gem!

Photo: Ann Watts: Source - The Singleton Historical Society & Museum



ABSCONDING - FROM THE ARCHIVES

Absconding from a "master or mistress" or work gang was common and regarded as a crime in the convict period. The reasons for this varied, but generally women and men absconded to be free of the restrictions which were placed on them.

Absconders were tried before a Bench Magistrate in a local court of Petty Sessions. Inevitably female absconders were sent to serve time at the factory with punishment ranging from a short time in solitary to an extended period of hard labour.

One woman, *Eliza Summers*, was a repeat absconder - in Eliza's case it was most likely to be with Benjamin Hall (senior). She was returned to the factory a number of times before they eventually married in 1834. They were married at St John's Parramatta by The Rev. Samuel Marsden!

Notice of Abscondment showing Eliza Summers (later Mrs Benjamin Hall, mother of bushranger, Ben Hall). Source: *The Sydney Gazette & NSW Advertiser* 13th May 1833.

**PRINCIPAL SUPERINTENDENT OF CONVICTS' OFFICE,
SYDNEY, 13th MAY, 1833.**

THE undermentioned Prisoners having absconded from the Individuals and Employments set against their Names respectively, and some of them being at large with stolen Certificates, and Tickets-of-Leave, all Constables and others are hereby required and commanded to use their utmost exertions in apprehending and lodging them in safe custody.

Any Person harbouring or employing any of the said Absentees, will be prosecuted as the Law directs :—

Smith James, No. 33-440, Camden (2), 19, Copperplate Printer, Kent, 5 feet 1½, brown hair, hazel eyes, fair freckled comp. M S inside lower right arm, from No. 8 Road Party

Mullins George or James, No. 27-1562, Manlius, 24, Plasterers' Boy, Salisbury, 5 feet 2¼, brown hair, brown eyes, ruddy pock-pitted comp. G on right arm, scar on left ear, from Ditto

Summers Eliza, No. 30-104, Asia (7), 25, Servant of All-work, Dublin, 5 feet 3, dark brown hair, hazel eyes, ruddy freckled and pock-pitted comp. from Mr. W. Panton

Police reports and Newspaper reports are two primary sources which detail many "escapes". The following reports are typical of the time and are written in a reporting style which entertains the reader but mostly, diminishes the women. The newspaper reports from the earlier period also provide insight into the work done at the first female factory which was a room above the Gaol in Parramatta.

***Mary Burns** assigned servant to Mr Cunningham, was next at the bar, charged with having obtained permission to go to church on Sunday, and not being able to discover her way back till Tuesday morning. Mary in her defence wished it to be believed, that she had taken up her abode in church during the intervening space of time, where she would have remained had she not remembered the observation of a friend, who said that, spiritual, must sometime give place to temporal concerns, this all passed in one ear and out the other with his worship, who consigned her to 3rd class for 14 days.*

(The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser, 21st February, 1833).

***Ellen Haghe** (Bond) apprehended for being illegally at large from her husband. This interesting specimen of her sex, had obtained a pass from her good man to proceed to Windsor; to visit a friend, but when taken into custody had proceeded no further than a hut in the government Domain, where it was stated that the particular individual, a male cousin, whom she was about to visit, had obligingly come to meet her, so as to save her the proposed journey. As her character stood high for faithfulness - to rum, brandy, gin and malt liquors when spirits were not attainable - and "constancy" in always being absent from her husband whenever he let her from under his eye, she was sent to the 3rd class for three months.*

(The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser, 18th January, 1845).

***Elizabeth Jones** was charged by her master with absenting herself from home without leave. She pleaded "Christmas time" in extenuation, and the bench therefore favoured her with a ticket to enjoy the Christmas month in the third class in the factory. (The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser, 1st January, 1831).*

***Honora Mullins**, an assigned servant to Mr Brooks, was charged by her master with cruising it since Sunday, and sentenced to expiate her offence by six weeks rustication at Parramatta.*

(The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser, 28th June, 1831).

***Catherine Henderson**, a plump, squat, black-eyed, cock-nosed, good-looking gipsy, assigned to Mr Brownrigg not liking such rigs, determined to run a rig of her own, and on Sunday night decamped from her service, and continued amateur bushranging on a limited scale in the Government Domain, until apprehended by that sly old fellow Fox, who is always running after the women and interrupting their amusement. Catherine, who looked extremely demure all the time, mildly intimated to his worship that she had not been paid any wages since she was at Mr Brownrigg's. Master Brownrigg, who was in attendance said, he was desired by his mistress to give her a good character. Sentence - two months 3rd class; first and last weeks in solitary confinement. (Parramatta Chronicle, 20th January, 1844).*

ABSCONDING AND THE WOMEN OF THE FIRST FACTORY (1804 - 1821).

Yesterday **Catharine Malone** was accused before a Bench of Magistrates with riotous and disorderly behaviour, and escaping from the custody of a peace officer; for which she was ordered to work twelve months in the cloth factory at Parramatta.

(The Sydney Gazette and NSW Advertiser 8th December 1805)

On Tuesday last three prisoners who were taken up by the patrols the night before, and unable to render satisfactory account thereof, received a corporal punishment; and **two women** were ordered to public labour at the Flax and Hemp Factory at Parramatta for a like offence.

(The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser, Sunday 1st June 1807).



A view of Parramatta 1796-1809; unsigned watercolour, Dixson Library, State Library New South Wales.

The gaol is the 2 storey building on the far right.

OUT AND ABOUT – MEMBERS’ TOUR OF ARCHÆOLOGY AT THE PARRAMATTA NORTH HISTORIC SITE - FRIDAY MAY 26TH & OPEN DAY SATURDAY 27TH MAY 2017



Pit revealing a garden wall from the Asylum period



Pit with drain and bricks possibly from the convict period



Members were enthralled!

Thank you to our hosts UGNSW, to Mary Casey and her team, to all members who attended the Friday Open Day and to Anne, Beth, Ronda, Ray and Kaye who helped with the stall on the Saturday Open Day at the Parramatta North site.



(4) A collection of finds including buttons & tobacco pipe fragments.



Beth, Anne and member, Ray Goddard - on the Open Day stall.

AUSTRALIA’S FEMALE FACTORIES –“LET THE WALLS TALK” BY KERIMA- GÆ TOPP

PFFF were treated to a most informative talk by Kerima-Gae Topp at our June meeting. Kerima-Gae spoke about the “other” lesser known female factories - Newcastle, Port Macquarie, Moreton Bay (2), Bathurst and, George Town, Launceston, Ross, and Hobart Town in Tasmania. As always, Kerima-Gae had excellent research to share.

Apart from the Cascades Factory in South Hobart, there is little evidence or acknowledgement of these sites. However, despite there being no existing fabric, the Moreton Bay (Eagle Farm) factory site (also the site of the old Brisbane airport), has excellent signage and a visitors’ centre (top right). There is also some factory site interpretation and signage at Bathurst, Port Macquarie and at Ross in Tasmania (lower right) where little or no fabric remains.

Imagine what could be done at Parramatta within the core buildings and yards of the female factory. *Herstory Matters at Parramatta!*



MEMBERS' ONLY EVENT - WITH OUR PATRONS MEG KENEALLY & THOMAS MICHAEL KENEALLY AO
REPORT BY EMILY ANDRADE



Photography: Wal Phelps

On Saturday 8th July 2017, I had the pleasure of joining the Parramatta Female Factory Friends for afternoon tea to meet their Patrons Tom and Meg Keneally. I arrived feeling nervous, yet excited as I didn't know what to expect. However my fears were soon allayed at the warm welcome I received from the other members. After the friendly welcome I received from everyone there, I was able to settle down and enjoy the afternoon activities.

During the initial part of the afternoon tea I had the privilege of being introduced to Tom, Meg and their family. It was extremely enjoyable to meet and have a short conversation with them. This was followed by the cutting of the cake, where Tom and Meg received the official welcome.

Later on both Tom and Meg gave a talk about the importance of retaining our heritage, particularly in Parramatta. Then they spoke about their recently published book *The Unmourned* and discussed how they were inspired to write the novel as well as what it was like to work with one another.

The whole experience was memorable, educational and inspirational. As someone who would like to be a writer one day, an opportunity to meet two great writers such as Tom and Meg could only inspire me to strive towards my future aspirations.

Emily is in year 11 at Toongabbie Christian School. She loves reading, sketching and is an accomplished pianist with an interest in gems and crystals. Her greatest love is writing. Emily is also our youngest and newest PFFF member!



Thank you to Meg and Tom and to everyone who made this a special day. A special thank you to Brian Powyer and P&DHS, to the PFFF Committee, to Kaye Weaver and Pauline Garmonsway for such terrific work 'behind the scenes'; thanks to Anne for organising the amazing cake and to Wal Phelps our photographer whose skill and generosity is much appreciated.



ADVOCACY CORNER

- A huge thank you to our members and supporters for writing submissions to Parramatta Council regarding the Parramatta North Historical Sites (PNHS) Draft Development Control Plan and DA. A very special thank you to member *Pam Allan* and *Allen Grimwood* for your invaluable insights and advice.
- Thank you also to members who gave your support at the Parramatta Council Meeting recently at which the Draft Development Control Plan (DCP) was adopted despite vociferous opposition from community members present. The next stage will be the DA which will clear the way for the sale of the first super lots at the Parramatta North Cumberland Hospital site. We can only hope that Minister Frydenberg will approve the National Heritage Listing of the Precinct which would mean Council having to review the DCP.
- UGNSW have recently released the SPROUT Report which details all the presentations from numerous community groups regarding the future adaptive re-use of the “heritage core” now called the “historic core”. Participants included creative artists, academics, business groups, architects, history groups, school students and PFFF. To view these presentations go to:

<https://www.urbangrowth.nsw.gov.au/assets/Uploads/PNUT-0011-SPROUT-Ideas-from-Sprout-150617-v3.pdf>

- PFFF will continue with advocacy regarding the adaptive re-use of the heritage core colonial buildings. Our hope is that there will be a permanent place for visitation, exhibitions, education, and research. Our vision is that the layers of all the historical narratives of the PNH sites will be told.



UGNSW Map showing the “Heritage Core” - Parramatta North (now referred to as the “Historic Core”).

BUILDING KEY	
FEMALE FACTORY	
1.	NORTHEAST RANGE (C. 1821)
2.	SOUTHEAST RANGE (C. 1821)
3.	PENITENTIARY (C. 1826)
LUNATIC ASYLUM	
4.	WARD 2 (1895)
5.	WARD 4 NORTH RANGE (1901)
6.	WARD 4 WEST RANGE (1889)
7.	WARDS 2 AND 3 (C.1876)
8.	MAIN KITCHEN (1892)
9.	WARD 9 (C. 1892)
10.	WARD 1 (C.1883)
11.	WARD 1 DINING (C.1883)
ORPHANAGE	
12.	MAIN BUILDING (1844)
13.	SOUTHWEST RANGE (1850s)
14.	CHAPEL (C. 1864)
15.	GATE LODGE (C. 1862)
16.	LAUNDRY (1882)
17.	BETHEL HOUSE INFIRMARY (C. 1864)

Note: In this key, the Female Factory buildings are
 (1) the ‘Greenway’ Hospital building
 (2) the ‘Greenway’ Matron’s Quarters
 (3) the 3rd Class Sleeping Quarters/Penitentiary

Image: courtesy UGNSW.