

**PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS INC.
NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO: 18 NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2017**



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 PFFF website: parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au
 History: parramattafemalefactories.wordpress.com
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pfffriends/>
 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-an2818460 National Library of Australia (NLA)

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

General Meeting: 1:30pm & Christmas Celebration from 2:15, **FRIDAY 15th December '17**
 Coach House, Hambledon Cottage.

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Artwork and PFFF logo by Amiel Dizon dizonbydesign.com.au

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a bright New Year! For the Parramatta Female Factory and the 'Friends' with our wonderful news, it is certainly shaping up that way. Yes, if you haven't heard the sounds of delight or seen the newspapers:



PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY IS NOW NATIONAL HERITAGE LISTED

This is testament to the fabulous tenacity, passion and vision shared by our group. Congratulations to everyone for past and present commitment.

The Parramatta Female Factory Friends background to the listing is: PFFF first made the submission in 2011/2012. A separate submission was also made. No response from the Federal department. We resubmitted ours and with a change of Federal government, the process was put on ice. This was followed up by a myriad of letters from individuals and groups who responded to our call outs and sharing of the Factory story. Lack of acknowledgment of how important the site is and vulnerability maintained the momentum. The process restarted. Our submission was the only current one at the time and was given to the Australian Heritage Council for consideration....and now!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

We were not alone in the advocacy for the Parramatta Female Factory and Precinct heritage listing. I would also like to acknowledge the community work done by: CRUMA and retired CFMEU including Jack Munday, Vince Ashton, Mick Tubbs, John and Clelia Koch; Bonney Djuric and Parra Girls; Parramatta and District Historical Society, National Trust (NSW Advocacy Committee and Parramatta Branch); Holroyd Local History Research; Granville Historical Society, the Macquarie Society as well as more recently, NPRAG. The cause has also been helped by writers and historians. As well as our wonderful patrons, Tom and Meg Keneally, other historians and writers have shared the women's histories and supported our advocacy over time - Babette Smith, Carol Liston and Suzanne Voytas. The National Heritage Listing also includes the Institutions which we have included in our Charter from the beginning. The inclusion of the Roman Catholic Orphan School/Girl's Industrial School/Norma Parker Centre in the National Heritage Listing is a credit to Bonney Djuric's work. I would also like to acknowledge the Hon. Julie Owens MP for her support from the first meeting, the Hon. Senator Lee Rhiannon for her interest and acknowledgement in Federal Parliament, the Hon. David Shoebridge MLA, the Hon. Penny Sharpe MLA and the Hon. Jamie Parker MP for their support of our state petition of over 10,000 signatures and Phil Bradley for local Greens' advocacy work. It is easy to see from this that so many people support our cause and are a part of the success.

This step of National Heritage Listing is the firm ground for our continued work. The next step is World Heritage. Meanwhile we continue to ensure the site integrity is maintained (no new building in the factory footprint) and mindful adaptive reuse, in particular the Museum of Australian Identity.

Here are links if you want more detail for the national listing. We also managed to have our website included on the Federal website:

Australian Heritage Database Gazettal Notice: <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2017G01219>

Australian Heritage Database record:

http://www.environment.gov.au/cgibin/ahdb/search.pl?mode=place_detail;place_id=106234

Department information:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/national/parramatta-female-factory-and-institutions-precinct>

The "It's a Riot" was another fabulous day with 206 participants registering and an estimated 350 attending. We had the usual tour offer but this year included an exhibition curated by Ronda Gaffey and Anne Mathews featuring the latest research and models of the buildings to rival any museum models. We also had our archaeology display courtesy of Mary Casey and her team from Casey and Lowe Archaeology and information tables including State Archives and the fabulous senior archivist Gail Davis, the Parramatta & District Society, St John's Cemetery Friends and Brislington. It was also a wonderful opportunity for descendants to share family stories.

We had wonderful volunteers for the day and simply would not have been able to run the day without all the help. Thank you all.

Next year is the Bicentennial of Macquarie laying the first stone. The committee is busy looking at ideas, perhaps one or two days so watch this space and pencil in the weekend, 7th and 8th July. We will let you know more details soon!

Lastly, our advocacy continues and our Patrons are also fabulous ambassadors for the Friends. I was participant at the NSW Museums' Stakeholders' Day and the special guest speaker was Meg Keneally who gave a great outline of our advocacy and the Female Factory status and possible future.

Hope to see you all at our December meeting/ Christmas celebration – please bring a plate and celebrate! There may be a surprise with a new PFFF publication ready your stocking - *Herstory, Another Chapter Unfolds!*

All the best
Gay Hendriksen
President



A Tour group on Riot Day



Meg Keneally - at the Conference



Meg and Gay at the Conference
Photos: Gay Hendriksen.



Mary Casey and her team on Riot Day



NOTICEBOARD

• DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

The final General Meeting for 2017 is **Friday 15th December at 1:30** followed by a festive afternoon tea.

• **DATES for 2018:** The 3rd Friday of the month Guest Speaker at 1:30pm General Meeting at 2:15pm.
20th February, 20th April, 15th June, 17th August (AGM), 19th October, 21st December.

• **At the first meeting in February our guest speaker will be Gail Davis from State Archives and Records NSW - which is not to be missed!**

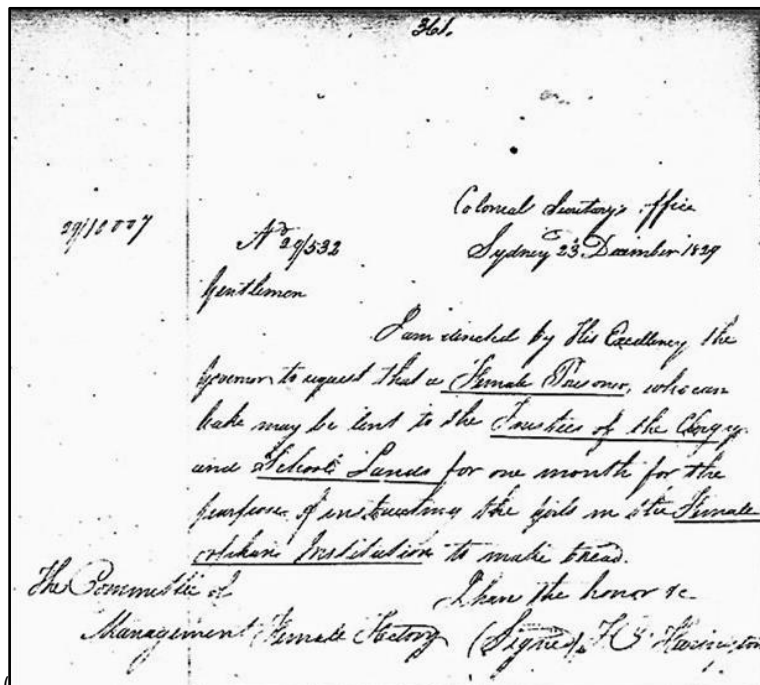
HISTORY CORNER -

A Short Assignment At Christmas Time!

In a letter signed by *the Colonial Secretary Alexander Macleay*, dated 23rd December 1829, a request is made to *The Committee of Management Female Factory* for a female prisoner to be lent to the Female Orphan Institution for one month.

The purpose of the “loan” was for the woman to instruct the girls on how to make bread.

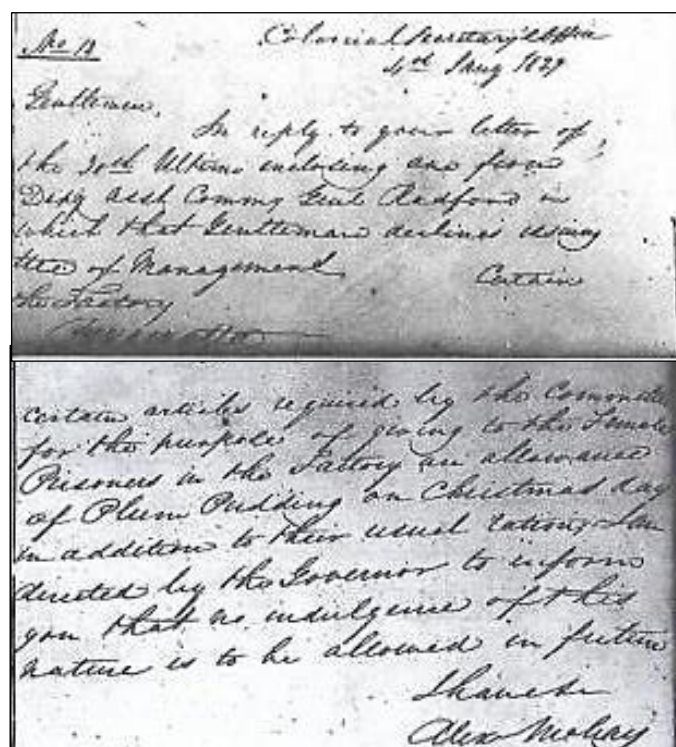
One wonders who was sent and whether she was a woman with a daughter at the institution. The position may have offered a welcome respite from factory life as well as an opportunity for the woman to pass on her skills. (1)



No Scrooge in the Colonial Secretary's Office!

In a letter from *the Colonial Secretary* to *The Committee of Management Female Factory*, dated 4th January 1829, it would seem that a previous request for “certain articles required for the purpose of giving to the prisoners an allowance of Plum Pudding on Christmas day” had been declined by the Deputy Assistant Commissary.

The letter indicates that this decision has been overturned at a higher level on appeal and the Committee now informed that, the *indulgence* of an allowance of plum pudding, was to be issued in addition to normal rations in future!



(2)

Sources:

(1) Colonial Secretary's Correspondence: Reel 1956, Page 361, SRNSW

(2) Colonial Secretary's Correspondence: Reel 1055, SRNSW

Research: Anne Mathews

THE SISTERS OF CHARITY AT THE FEMALE FACTORY, PARRAMATTA

.....they received our instruction with respect and attention & before 3 months had elapsed we had the consolation of hearing from her Excellency the Lady Gipps, and from the Superintendent [sic]that cursing, blasphemy and the hitherto daily use of improper language was much diminished.....

Extract from *The Annals of the Sisters of Charity in Australia* written by Sister Mary John Baptist De Lacy

Five Sisters of Charity left Dublin on 8th August 1838 and arrived in Sydney on 31st December. In January 1839 they took up residence in Parramatta and began their daily visits to the factory women and their children. Their principal concerns were religious instruction and care of the sick and poor.

“On 20 January 1839 we visited the Factory, the account given by Inmates was deployable in number 800, of whom about 500 were Catholics. As a last experiment for their amendment & to awaken a sense of remorse, the attending priest had given up saying the usual weekly Mass, none were ever permitted to approach Holy Communion except the dying”. (1)

After 3 months a change was noted in the women’s behaviour and especially in the use of bad language. A number of women were reconciled to the Church and Mass was restored at the Factory.

“During the above named period 200 of those poor penitents had received Holy Communion and 180 the Sacrament of Confirmation, they now have Mass once a week and as long as they remain in the building, the advantage of approaching the Sacrament each month.....During the space of 6 months 50 of the Protestants have been received into the Church, and have approached Holy Communion before leaving the Factory.....” (2)

The Sisters, by all accounts had a calming and positive impact on the factory women. For many, the Sisters were fellow countrywomen who offered a source of comfort and kindness with their visits and earned the women’s respect and co-operation. There were also a number of converts noted!

The Sisters of Charity were the first religious women seen in the colony and Sister Mary John Baptist De Lacy who remained in Sydney, went on to found St. Vincent’s Hospital at Woolloomooloo Heights in 1857. Their story is a truly Australian story as is the story of women they cared for.

Sources:

(1) *Keeping In Touch* July 2010, page 4: Extracts from *the Annals of the Sisters of Charity in Australia* written by M. John Baptist De Lacy

(2) Ibid

(3) <http://www.sistersofcharity.org.au/who-we-are/history>;

Research: Anne Mathews



Sister Mary Francis de Sales
Catherine O'Brien



Sister Mary Lawrence
Lawrence Cater

Sister Mary Francis
Xavier Williams



Sister Mary John
Baptist De Lacy

Sister Mary
John Cahill



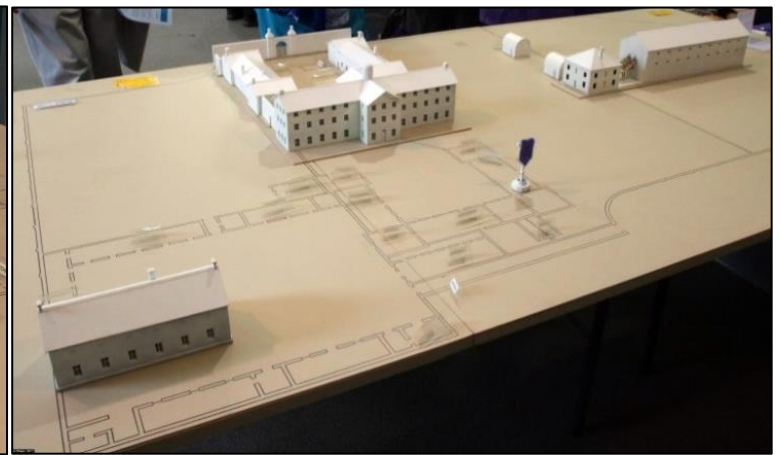
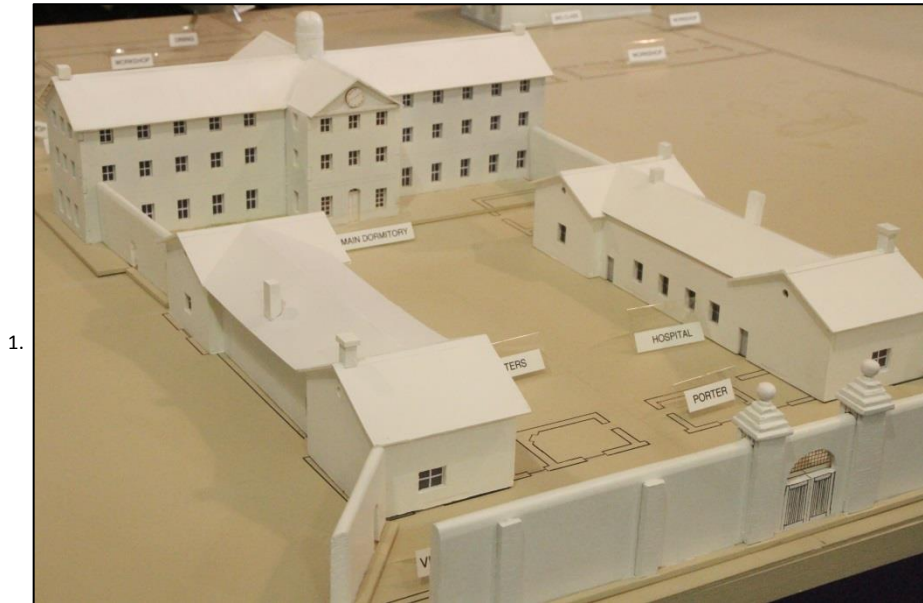
IT'S A RIOT! 190TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OCTOBER RIOT - 27TH OCTOBER 2017
PHOTOGRAPHY: BOB COOK AND WAL PHELPS



A Most Successful Day!
With 205 tour bookings!
An estimated 350 through the gates!
A great 190th Commemoration!
Thank You!



**HERSTORY- ANOTHER CHAPTER UNFOLDS - A VERY SPECIAL DISPLAY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY BOB COOK & WAL PHELPS**

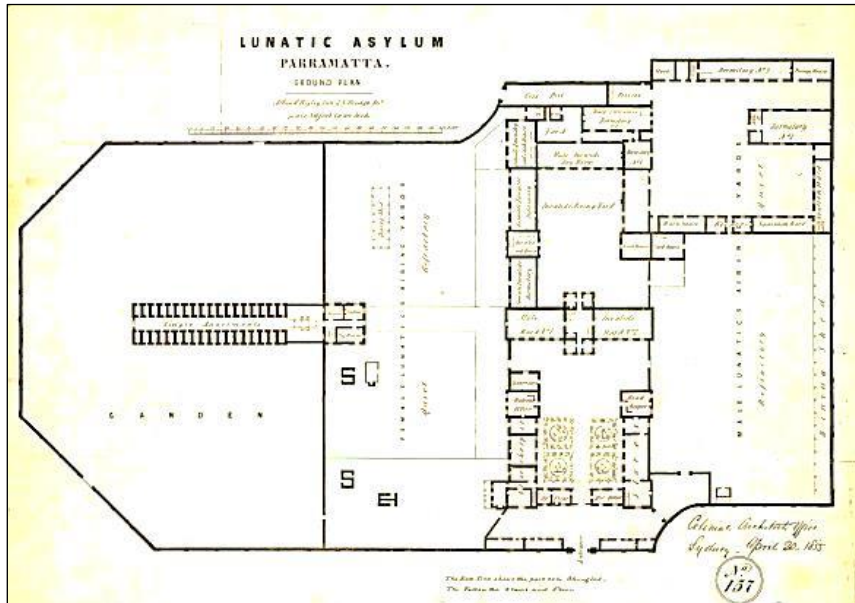


Model of the Parramatta Female Factory Buildings & Footprint.

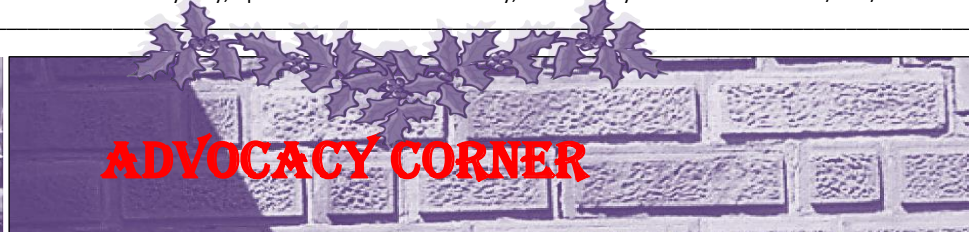
- 1/2. The Female Factory viewed from front gate entrance (Fleet Street).
3. The Female Factory looking south - the main barracks is in the centre with solitary paired cells to the left of the barracks. The 3 storey Gipps Penitentiary with single cells 1838 is in the background.
4. The Female Factory as seen from 'the river' and the 'Governor's Domain'.
5. The 1855 map of the Lunatic Asylum Parramatta showing the earlier Female Factory buildings and yards, is the plan on which the model was based. Much of this footprint is recognisable today.

Congratulations to Anne Mathews for her inspirational idea, to Terry Fitzell and Matt Sawtell for the model production and to Wayne Mathews for the draughtsmanship which made this realisation of 'the Factory' possible. There are more 'buildings' planned in the future to complete the model.

5.



(5) No 157: Lunatic Asylum Colonial Architect's Office Sydney, April 30th 1855: Mitchell Library, State Library New South Wales v18/Parr/5 41528374



- **STOP PRESS!** National Heritage Listing:
"The stories of tens of thousands of women and children institutionalised in Australia will be formally recognised with the inclusion of the Parramatta Female Factory and Institutions Precinct on the National Heritage List today.... The Precinct is highly valued for its heritage importance by the local, state and national community and this National Heritage Listing will allow the Australian Community to stand witness to the lives and experiences of women and children who lived there..."
Ministerial Media Release 14/11/17
- **THE NEXT STAGE IS WORLD HERITAGE LISTING!** Keep those petitions running hot! Every signature counts!
<http://www.parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au/advocacy-2/petitions-brochure/>
- A bouquet of thanks to absolutely everyone for such terrific support in their advocacy for National Heritage Listing!
- A very special thank you to Judith Dunn, Phil Bradley, Linda Bradley, Audrey Meisenhelter, Kerry Martin, Shirley Moore and Beth Matthews, for responding to an urgent call to media photo shoot at the site. There was excellent coverage of the National Heritage Listing in the the local papers and Sydney Morning Herald. The photo says it all - even *Herstory* got a plug with a copy held aloft by Beth! Thank you to Parramatta Sun's Kylie Stevens and photographer Geoff Jones - for the link to the article:
<http://www.parramattasun.com.au/story/5058140/long-overdue/?es=1875>



Photo: Geoff Jones

