

**PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS INC.
 NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO: 22 JULY-AUGUST 2018
 FEMALE FACTORY BICENTENARY EDITION**

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 Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/parramattafemalefactoryfriends/>
 Petition: <https://www.change.org/p/parramatta-female-factory-federal-petition-for-world-heritage>



Patrons: Meg Keneally & Thomas Michael Keneally AO
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Treasurer/Public Officer: Kerima-Gae Topp **Secretary:** Kerry Martin
Committee: History Project: Anne Mathews & Beth Matthews
Publicity/Newsletter Editor: Ronda Gaffey

Next Meeting: AGM FRIDAY August 17th 2018 at 1:30pm
 followed by a **General Meeting at 2:15 pm** -
 Coach House, Hambledon Cottage corner Gregory Place and Hassall Street, Harris Park.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Beyond words...

Some experiences in life really are beyond words, which is hard for a history lover to confess. However *History, Herstory, Our Story* Parramatta Female Factory Bicentennial was one of these moments in time. It was not just a dry event marking a distant time. Those who were able to come shared with me throughout the day and said how wonderful it was for them.



If you didn't manage to make it I will at least sketch the shadow from 'Plato's Cave'. Imagine this: The factory was basked in the clear light of a winter's day. The wind rose, like the voices of the women, the clouds moved across the sky reflecting the moods of the day and in my mind, the women, sometimes almost stormy and sometimes shafted daylight. Add to this the heart moving sounds of bagpipes calling all to the centre. Then magnificent, soul stirring speeches from world class wordsmiths and descendants who took us all on journeys into the lives of the women and the place. This was followed by a reflection to the strains of an Irish harp and pipe and by a laying of flowers and messages. Then connections were made and more joy shared - so many people together.

Our dedication speakers included Professor the Hon. Dame Marie Bashir, Tom and Meg Keneally, John Pilger, Senator Marise Payne, the Hon. Scott Farlow, the Hon. Julie Owens, Babette Smith, Heidi Brown, Jo Edwards, Heather Garnsey and Ronda Gaffey.

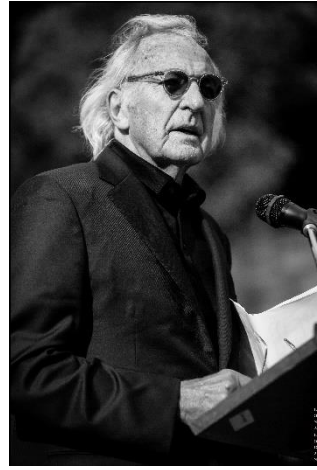
Above describes the dedication and commemoration but of course there was also the celebration. Our seminar program on convict women and the factory was delivered by: John Cann, Patrick Dodd, Heather Garnsey, Tom and Meg Keneally, Carol Liston and Babette Smith. To celebrate, there were also re-enactments, a great range of trade tables, wonderful Colonial crafts, the *Herstory* exhibition, site archaeology, being put in the stocks (and that wasn't just the naughty ones), family activities, a video history spot to record your connection, photographers capturing the special moments, sociable hosts sharing the history, registration people welcoming just over 1,000 people, descendants sharing their stories and families meeting other family members for the first time. A lot of beverages were imbibed, soup, snacks and sausage sizzles eaten.

To enable this wonderful experience of course was a massive amount of work for our group both for months before and on the day. Our Committee and Bicentennial Sub-Committee are to be congratulated. The wonderful Committee workers included: Ronda Gaffey, Heidi Brown, Pauline Garmonsway, Kerima-Gae Topp, Beth Matthews, Anne Mathews, Lyn Watkins, Cate Whittaker, Frank Williams, Steve Bryant and Eileen Avery. Being a community group, there were also family members helping out in several locations as well. What a sterling effort. There were 47 volunteers all together.

As we are a small group, we just could not have had the number of hands (and feet) without the input into planning and support of the following: Patrick Dodd and the Macquarie Society who also provided volunteers, the National Trust who also added volunteering (there was the unforgettable Brian Powyer who strongly resembled a town crier and governor in one), City of Parramatta Council who provided fabulous sociable hosts, banners, technical support for the dedication, HETI who provided support, pre event planning spaces, technical staff and spaces inside the buildings without which we could not have done the exhibition, talks, planning and event coordination on the day, Cumberland Hospital who allowed us to use the site and provided very helpful security support, the Parramatta Leagues Club whose community grant facilitated the hire of musicians and re-enactment groups and, Urban Growth who supported the activation of the site, constructed the commemorative wall and provided infrastructure support and advice.



Photography: Bob Cook, Ray Allen and Wal Phelps



Photography: Lona Logan (l to r) Professor the Hon Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO; John Pilger, descendant; Jo Edwards with her ancestor, *Constance*

We would have had no official image, video or sound records without Bob Cook, Wal Phelps, Ray Allen, Iain Wilson, Aiden Jaros-Grilli, Lona Logan and Edith TeBay, so a big thanks to them as well. Success was also in gaining new memberships and more signed petitions. On that note, keep the petitions coming in and encourage membership (including renewing yours before the AGM).

Lastly, one of the most outstanding parts of the day was standing amongst everyone just after the dedication and seeing firsthand how much the Parramatta Female Factory means to so many people and also that we play a small but useful part in this great story and ensuring its potential to survive the 300th anniversary!

With Best Wishes
Gay Hendriksen



Photography: Bob Cook, Ray Allen and Wal Phelps

NOTICEBOARD

- **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: Friday August 17th AGM at 1:30pm** followed by General Meeting at 2:15pm.
FURTHER MEETING DATES in 2018 - 3rd Friday of the month - 19th October, 14th December.
- **The 191st ANNUAL RIOT DAY will be held on Friday 26th October, 2018 at the Parramatta Female Factory site.**
- **REMINDER: Membership fees are due 1st July each year - see page 11 for details.**
- A very warm welcome to new PFFF members: *Melissa Brooks, Kim Jackson, Libby Moon, Janice Moorey, Dawn Watson, Wendy Goldsmith, Susan Lamont, Georgie Beazley, Catrenia Madsen, Susan Bailey, Nerolie Granet, Betty Jones, Stephanie Chinneck, Ron Ray, David Johnson and Beryl Gallard.*

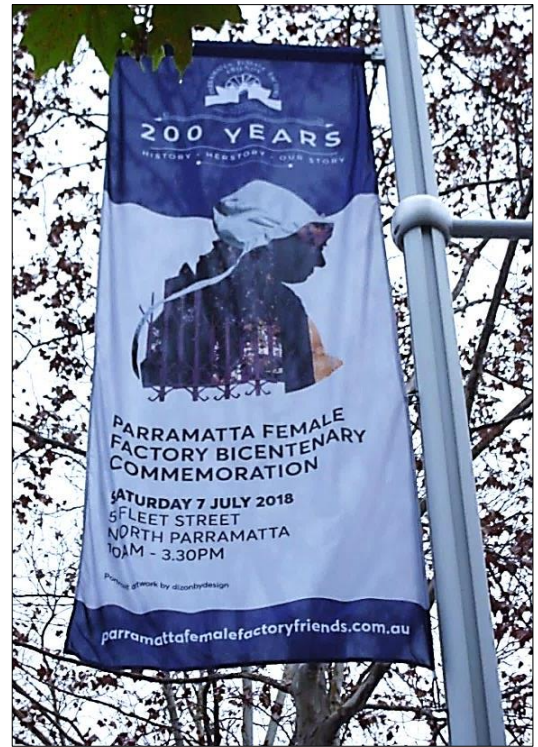
HISTORY CORNER - PARRAMATTA TOWN CELEBRATES!



Photograph: Courtesy Keith Baker PHC

The pole banners announcing the Bicentenary were quite a sight to see as they flew in Centenary Square, Parramatta. These were organised by the City of Parramatta Council and designed in collaboration with Christopher Snelling and his team and PFFF's Gay Hendriksen.

Another COP initiative was a cabinet display on the first floor foyer at the Parramatta Heritage Centre. Thank you to Alison Lykissas and her team. The display continues until 8th August.

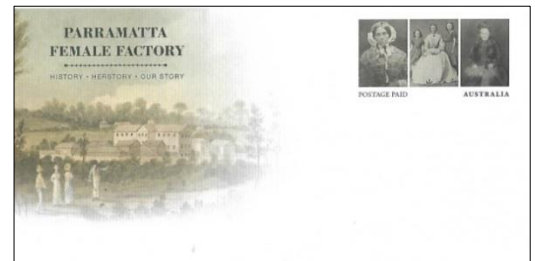


An exciting national PFFF collaboration has been the issue of a Commemorative pre paid envelope ⁽¹⁾ by Australia Post. Many thanks to CEO and Group Managing Director Christine Holgate and the design and marketing team at AP for such a wonderful collaboration!

"This envelope marks the 200th anniversary of Governor Macquarie laying the foundation stone for Australia's first purpose-built female factory on 9 July 1818." (1)

(1) Extract of text; image; courtesy Australia Post ©

Cover design: John White, Australia Post Design Studio Cover images: Augustus Earle, Female Penitentiary - Parramatta, c1826 National Library of Australia, NK12/47; portraits (L to R) Anne Dunne, Emma Mayner and daughters and Susannah Watson, courtesy of Parramatta Female Factory Friends and descendants of the women.



A further initiative for the Bicentennial was the production of a button badge which carries the powerful event brand *History, Herstory, Ourstory* which was used in all publicity material including media releases, flyers, the Official Programme and in radio interviews.

A linen ribbon was also made to be worn in remembrance of the Factory women. The ribbon is symbolic of the women's work at the factory where they produced linen as well as woollen cloth.



Thanks go to Vanessa Mathews for assisting with the button badge design and to Stephen Bryant, Lyn Watkins and Beth Matthews for the linen ribbon - 380 ribbons were made which meant a lot of cutting, folding and pinning! Thank you also to Lyn for all her efforts with the manufacture of a Parramatta "cap" which proved a popular sales item on the day!

HISTORY * HERSTORY * OURSTORY
A DAY OF DEDICATION, COMMEMORATION & CELEBRATION

*'Their antipodean stories started in this place, and have inched down through the generations. They continue in the lives of many of us here today, many who are living the continuing story started by their ancestors. And when it comes to Mary Shields, I hope I tell it well'.
Meg Keneally 7th July 2018*



Photography: Bob Cook, Ray Allen & Wai Phelps

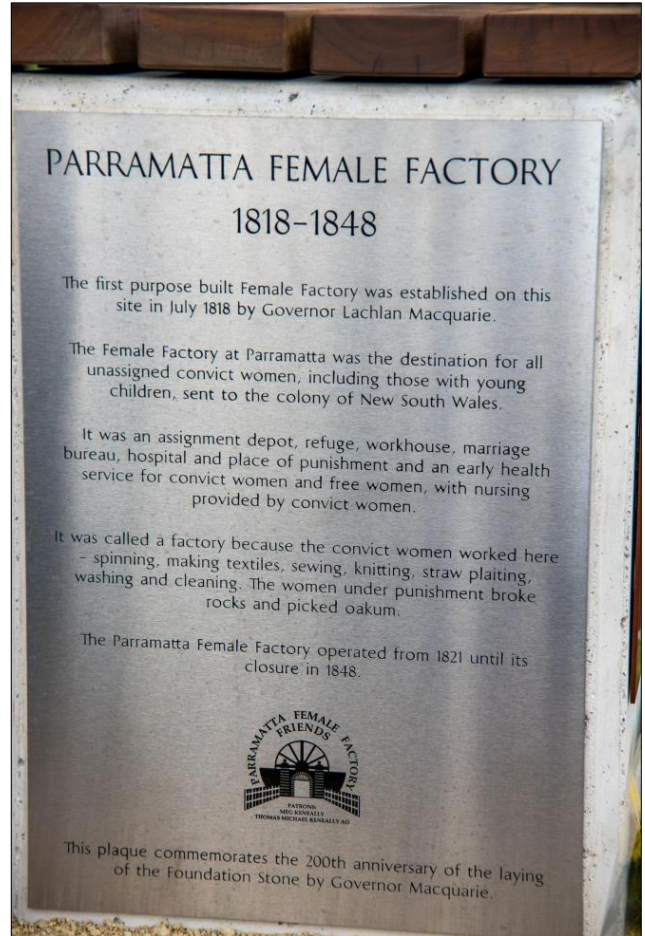


“A GESTURE OF REMEMBRANCE”... A PLACE “TO REFLECT AND LEARN”...



Photograph: Lona Logan Heather Garnsey - descendant of Matron Raine laying a tribute

Parramatta Female Factory Commemorative Wall - designed by TDK Architects



Situated within the nationally listed heritage core, the wall is designed to be a functional piece of public art where visitors can sit, reflect and learn. (1)

“This piece of public art is a gesture of remembrance for the thousands of women who passed through the Parramatta Female Factory since 1818 and provides much needed heritage interpretation for one of Australia’s most important colonial sites...” (2)



Photography: Bob Cook, Ray Allen and Wal Phelps



(1) Extract from Media Release Urban Growth NSW Development Corporation 6/7/2018 - published with kind permission UGNSWDC

(2) Ibid, quote from Barry Mann CEO UGNSWDC



Photography: Bob Cook, Ray Allen and Wal Phelps

THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY

A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE

On July 9, 1818, Governor Macquarie laid the foundation stone of the Parramatta Female Factory and in 1821, 109 women and 71 children were marched from the Old Factory to the New. Among those women was my ancestor, *Martha Arch/Smith* who arrived in 1814 per *Wanstead* and was sent to the Factory above the Gaol; in 1827 Martha gained her Certificate of Freedom; in 1832 she was noted as a store operator in Wilberforce; she died in 1842 aged 70. She was blind.

Another ancestor was *Catherine Mangan* who arrived in 1824 on the ship *Almorah*; she was sent to the Parramatta Female Factory in 1826 (3rd class); married 3 times; had 11 children; died in 1874 aged 87. ⁽¹⁾

200 years later, on July 7, 2018, I joined the many hundreds of convict descendants at the Parramatta Female Factory site. We gathered to share stories of our ancestors and to celebrate our heritage.

On arrival, we were met by some kind and helpful volunteers who directed us to several displays. The displays and information included the Parramatta Female Factory Friends, the Women's Pioneer Society of Australasia, local Heritage and History groups as well as artefacts found on site. There were also lectures to attend.

I attended an illuminating talk by John Cann from State Archives and Records NSW who had useful research information tips.

Throughout the day, a Celtic harp and bagpipes and a pipe band played atmospheric music suitable for the occasion. During the minute reflection, a lament was played - sad and evocative.

The day culminated with the Dedication Ceremony, when many illustrious guest speakers, including Dame Marie Bashir, John Pilger, Meg and Tom Keneally passionately recounted the traumatic history of the Factory. Personal narratives were also relayed to the assembled crowd and then a Commemorative Wall with the first names of the convict women was unveiled by Dame Marie Bashir.

This day marked an important milestone for many people; certainly for me and my family. It was a day when the shame of the 'convict taint' of our grandparents' generations was replaced by a feeling of pride and compassion for our forebears who had been forcibly removed from their homeland.

As John Pilger reminded us:

We will never be an independent nation unless we accept both our indigenous and convict past.

A memorable day indeed.

Helen White

As with many other descendants, Helen travelled from interstate to attend the Bicentenary at Parramatta.

⁽¹⁾
The profiles of Catherine Mangan and Martha Arch/Smith are featured in the first edition of the PFFF publication *Herstory - Lives of the Parramatta Female Factory Women*
Photograph: Catherine Mangan, courtesy, Helen White, descendant



"OUR GIRLS" = COLONIAL OFFENCES
BY BETH MATTHEWS & ANNE MATHEWS

Newspapers of the day reported numerous court hearings and the despatch of women to the Parramatta Female Factory. While the women were mercilessly lampooned and ridiculed, their reported offences demonstrate a wilfulness, a refusal to conform and, or a desire to be free of restraint. In cases where women were charged for their anti-social behaviour and disturbing the peace, often drink and/or a man was involved. The consequence of such an 'offence' was time in the Factory.

Lavinia Snipe was charged with eloping to a ball, where she was discovered waltzing in Turkish trowsers; at the moment the constables made their entre she was languishingly inclining her head on her partner's shoulder from sheer lassitude, while he busily employed in bathing her temples with Eau de Cologne. The grasp of the Charley on her delicate shoulder soon brought her to reason.....1 month Gordon's "at home". (1)

Mary Wells, with a sweet obliquity of vision, was sent on a visit to Mrs Gordon for a month, in consequence of her voting all kinds of work "a bore" and cutting it dead. (2)

Joanna Finn, "deaf as a post" whenever work was mentioned to her, but as sharp as a needle when desired to retire to rest, was ordered to have her ears pricked at Mrs Gordon's establishment. (3)

Mary McGrath, a young lady of extraordinary acquirements, who can "walk a mile, gallop a mile, or trot a mile with any filly on the turf" was charged by her master with trotting off without waiting for the signal to start. The bench sent her to be broke in by Mrs Gordon. (4)

Mary Smeating was accused by her mistress of divers freaks, such as sticking her arms akimbo, with a refusal to work, and, when threatened with the society of a constable, sending a dozen or two of cups and saucers at the head of the latter, by which two bran-new front teeth, which she had purchased only the day before, in readiness for the races, were not only knocked out of her jaw, but rendered useless. Mary denied the charge and said her mistress didn't like her, because she was the prettiest of the two - so the Bench set her to lose her locks at Gordon's shaving shop. (5)

Margaret Caine, exhibiting the Irish Fling at a soiree, to the great delight of a numerous assembly, who were shouting, "Go it Mog, you'r the girl for bewitching them; hurrah, ould Ireland for ever, &c." when the Charleys, who were attracted by the hubbub, introduced themselves, and the unfortunate Margaret was conveyed to the watch-house. She now appeared to treat the case as a trifle, and was greatly astonished on being ordered for a month to Mrs Gordon's dancing academy. (6)

Charlotte Melroys...was handed to the bar, having been discovered sitting very comfortably alongside of a brick kiln, smoking a short pipe, and taking share of a pot of beer; the constables ordered her to march along with them, but this she most positively refused, and they were under the necessity of placing her on a hurdle, and carrying her into the town. One month, 3rd class. Charlotte on hearing the sentence, yelled loudly in sound "tis misery to hear", and threatened to be amply satisfied when she came out. (7)

By all accounts, Matron Gordon, was kept rather busy receiving her 'new' charges in 'batches' judging from this entry in the 'Domestic Intelligence' report! (8)

Fifteen disorderlies were dispatched in the van to Mrs. Gordon's, on Tuesday morning.

References:

- (1) Sydney Herald (NSW: 1831-1842), Thursday 17 May, 1832, page 3.
- (2) Sydney Herald (NSW: 1831-1842), Monday 14 May, 1832, page 3.
- (3) Sydney Herald (NSW: 1831-1842), Thursday 12 July, 1832, page 2.
- (4) Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser (NSW: 1803-1842), Saturday 14 July, 1832, page 3.
- (5) Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser (NSW: 1803-1842), Tuesday 2 October 1832, page 3.
- (6) Sydney Herald (NSW: 1831-1842), Thursday 2 August, 1832, page 3.
- (7) Sydney Herald (NSW: 1831-1842), Thursday 26 July, 1832 page 3.
- (8) Ibid, page 1



SARAH'S STORY (OR IS IT?) BY DR MAX LITTLEFIELD

The Female Factory at Parramatta housed some of Australia's first strong non-conforming females and I proudly count one of them among my ancestors...

Sarah Longhurst came from the east London area. On September 16, 1812, Sarah, aged about 26, appeared before a magistrate at the Old Bailey. She together with her sister Frances (28) and Charlotte Lattimore, were charged with larceny. Sarah and Charlotte were found guilty and sentenced to seven years transportation. Frances was exonerated. It was not thought necessary to give details of female crimes and the women could be found listed under "Wives and Concubines".

From Old Bailey to the docks via Newgate Prison they embarked in 1813. Sarah and Charlotte (also called Catherine later) arrived in Sydney Cove aboard the convict ship *Wanstead* on January 9, 1814.

Sarah was hurriedly married off to a ticket-of-leave man, Londoner Robert Wells, who had arrived in 1791. They were married at St John's Parramatta by the Rev. Samuel Marsden on June 6, 1814. Charlotte (Catherine) Lattimore was a witness. They signed with an 'x'.

Somehow I don't believe Sarah was particularly impressed by the situation...The Sydney Gazette records that Sarah absconded from the Female Factory* in 1814 and 1817 and was committed for assault and battery on August 25, 1825.

PRINCIPAL SUPERINTENDANT'S OFFICE,
Sydney, March 29, 1817.

THE, under-mentioned Prisoners having absented themselves from their respective Employments, and some of them at large with false Certificates, all Constables and others are hereby required to use their utmost Exertions in apprehending and lodging them in safe Custody.

WOMEN.—S. Corbett, E. Wright, Mary Price, Mary Langridge, Sarah Smith, Elizabeth Birch, Elizabeth Shield, Sarah Wells, alias Longhurst, Jane Blake, and Mary Hynett, alias Thompson.

(1)

In between times, Sarah produced four children; their only girl was my great, great grandmother, Sarah Wells. Born around 1816 she was later listed among the inmates of the Female Orphanage (now the Whitlam Institute in the grounds of Western Sydney University Parramatta Campus). Children born to women in the Female Factory were transferred to the Female Orphanage; an enlightened idea during Macquarie's time.

In the musters of 1822, 1825 and 1828 (the Census as we know it) Robert Wells is shown as living with children but no wife is listed. Sarah Longhurst is shown as a washerwoman at Thos. Garrety's of Parramatta.

Sarah died in September, 1829 probably aged 42 and was buried at St John's Cemetery, Parramatta. (2)

No. 239					wife	
Sarah Wells	Parramatta	St John's	1829		Wife	Samuel Marsden
No. 240					Wife	

Sarah either refused or was unable to go with the flow, perhaps resenting the fate which detached her from her sister and London home. She certainly let everyone know that she would not comply with decisions made about her without a by-your-leave.

Research by Dr Max Littlefield - descendant and PFFF member

(1) Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser (NSW: 1803 -1842), Saturday 12 April 1817 p1 (abscondment notice - Sarah Wells)

(2) St John's Parramatta Parish Register - entry for burial of Sarah Wells

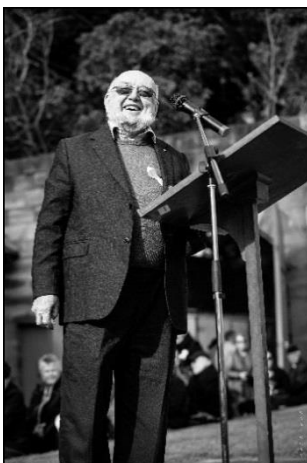
COLONIAL CRAFT, CONVICT CAPERS & HERITAGE TRADIES!



Photography: Bob Cook, Ray Allen and Wal Phelps.



Photography: Bob Cook, Ray Allen and Wal Phelps



Photography: Lona Logan



MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION 2018-19

***fees due 1st July each year**

Name _____

Address _____

Individual member \$10 or *Affiliate member \$25

Name of group/affiliation or society _____

Signature of Official Representative _____

Contact phone number (h) _____ (m) _____

email contact _____ no email

Method of payment **CHEQUE** OR **ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER** (PLEASE CIRCLE ONE)

Payable to : **Parramatta Female Factory Friends Inc.**

BSB: 633 000 ACCOUNT NUMBER: 151 276 763

(please make sure you have added your name to your EFT)

Send cheque to: **THE TREASURER,
PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS INC
PO BOX 1358 PARRAMATTA NSW 2124**

**Thank you
Parramatta Female factory Friends Inc. Committee**

(* Affiliated does not include voting rights. This is for individual members only.)