

**PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS INC.
NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO: 25 SUMMER EDITION 2019**



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



The Parramatta Female Factory - Augustus Earle 1826 – nla.pic-an 2818460 National Library of Australia (NLA)

Patrons: Meg Keneally & Thomas Michael Keneally AO
President: Gay Hendriksen **Vice President:** Heidi Brown
Treasurer/Public Officer: Kerima-Gae Topp **General Secretary/Editor:** Ronda Gaffey
Committee: **Membership Secretary:** Cate Whittaker **Minutes Secretary:** Kerry Martin
 Pauline Garmonsway, Lynette Watkins, Frank Williams, Stephen Bryant.

Next Meeting: Friday February 15 2019. Guest speaker at 1:00pm
GENERAL MEETING at 2:00pm followed by afternoon tea.
VENUE: The Coach House, Hambleton Cottage, cnr Gregory Place & Hassall Street, Harris Park.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Factory Friends,
Welcome to 2019.

This year is looking like a bumper one for the Parramatta Female Factory Friends. The Committee has already been busy putting together a Registration of Interest for using parts of the Factory internally and externally - Museum of Australian Identity and National Resource Centre. We have also been applying for grants to help our activities and build our resources.



Our advocacy is still critical. This is the phase in the government planning where adaptive reuse is being considered as well as where the agreement between State Government and Sydney University will take shape. The Committee is working hard and we will be presenting a Registration of Interest for our future use of the site.

There is also an arts precinct concept put forward by the Western Sydney Business Chamber which is something the Friends would like to see modified to include heritage. Our Museum of Australian Identity and National Resource Centre is still a very important option for the adaptive reuse of the Female Factory.

Our petition is looking healthy. I ask you to keep those petitions coming in. If each member could get 20 signatures we would be there! You can still download a petition from <http://www.parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au/advocacy-2/petitions-brochure/> Let's aim for 2019 at Federal Parliament with our petition. We need at least 2,500 more signatures.

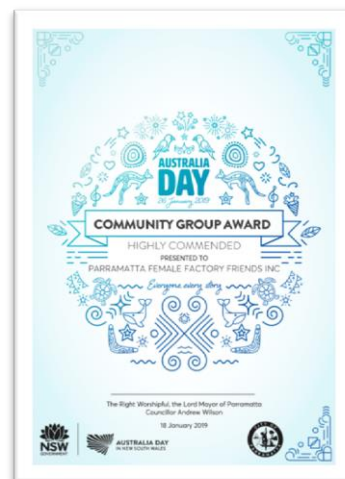
We received some fabulous news in January. The Parramatta Female Factory Friends received an Australia Day - *Highly Commended* - Community Group Award from the City of Parramatta Council for the work we have done so far. This is truly an award for the whole membership. Each of us has done something toward our goal and this is one acknowledgement of this. Membership and sharing the word, getting petitions, working on strategy, staffing stalls and catering at different events, tours, research, publications, exhibition, our Bicentennial and so much more! Congratulations to one and all.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

All the best

Gay Hendriksen

President



The COP Australia Day Awards Ceremony at Rydges Hotel, Rose Hill, Friday 18 January 2019



PFFF Australia Day stall Parramatta Park.

NOTICEBOARD

- **FIRST MEETING DATE for 2019 is Friday 15 February. PLEASE NOTE NEW TIMES - COMMENCING IN 2019.**
Guest Speaker at 1:00pm. General Meeting 2pm - 3pm followed by afternoon tea.
- Dates for your Diary in 2019: **Please note change to April meeting** - this will be held on **26 April** since Good Friday falls on the scheduled 3rd Friday date.

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR PFFF COMMITTEE !

Part one



Heidi Brown: Vice President

I am a descendant of Matron Ann Gordon, love Australian history and am passionate about eventually being able to share the Factory site with everyone! I have worked in a Museum as the Director, doing exhibitions and running tours (not many staff so I did a bit of everything!). I have been in Project Management most of my professional life and I am currently working in the Project Management Office of *Roads and Maritime Services* at Parramatta. And for those who know Pauline Garmonsway, I am her daughter.



Stephen Bryant - Tour Guide Co-ordinator

After 40 years in the workforce, areas of expertise include Finance; Operations and Information Systems. Now in retirement I have more time for my hobby of restoration and enjoyment of vintage cars, becoming more involved in a number of car clubs. I am also passionate about the preservation of the historic core of the Parramatta Female Factory. This has come about as a result of family history genealogy and discovering my ancestry includes a female convict who we believe was assigned to John Macarthur at one time. It is most likely she gave birth to my ancestor at the Parramatta Female Factory Hospital. Currently I am a Committee member and act as Tour Guide co-ordinator for PFFF.



Frank Williams - Community Liaison Officer

I retired in 2008 after working for two leading Electrical Engineering Companies as Engineering and Project manager, establishing manufacturing facilities in Australia for both companies. My interests include Rotary, Church Council and Show secretary of NSW Bantam Club. I also have an interest in the preservation of historical buildings and data. I have taken on a new role as Community Liaison Officer and currently represent the PFFF on the Parramatta Heritage Partners (PHP) group at their bi-monthly meetings.



Lyn Watkins - Committee Member

I joined the workforce as office junior in an architect's office in 1962 and I retired in 1972 to start a family. I have always been interested in handcrafts and am currently the organiser of a craft group as well as a patchwork group at different Neighbourhood Centres. I also play ten pin bowls and dabble in decorative/folk art. In 1990s I started my family tree exploration. In 2008 I visited Hobart and their Female Factory and realised what a terrible existence the women had to endure - I then started looking into my two female convict ancestors and finally I joined the PFFF in 2016. I am a Committee member helping wherever I can.



Pauline Garmonsway - Committee Member

I am now 82 years old and love keeping active by being involved with the PFFF. My career was in catering (and prior to that, "the Australian" and working at Sydney Airport,). I now do 'tea and coffee' etc. at all our events and bring treats to meetings! I also contribute by attending information stands at events such as *Australia Day* and *Explorers Day* which is a good way to spread our message. I love the history of the Female Factory site and want to do what I can to help save it.

One of my favourite hobbies is genealogy and it was through family in New Zealand that I discovered my children were descendants of Matron Gordon through their father's line. Our Vice President Heidi is my daughter and my other daughter lives in Washington working on Australian Defence Projects. In the rest of my time, I enjoy gardening and cooking.

Stephen's ancestor *Catherine Bird* (per *Lady Rowena 1826*) was featured in the *PFFF Newsletter Summer edition January 2018* pages 4-5

Lyn's great, great grandmother *Margaret Brandon* (per *Burrell 1832*) was a 'factory' woman.

Pauline and Heidi are also *First Fleeters*. Ed.

“OUR GIRLS” - WASHING & SEWING IN THE FACTORY
 BY BETH MATTHEWS & ANNE MATHEWS

In this edition we include two rather intriguing letters from *the Colonial Secretary's Correspondence* which lift the lid further on life in the Parramatta Female Factory, on its management and Colonial bureaucracy!

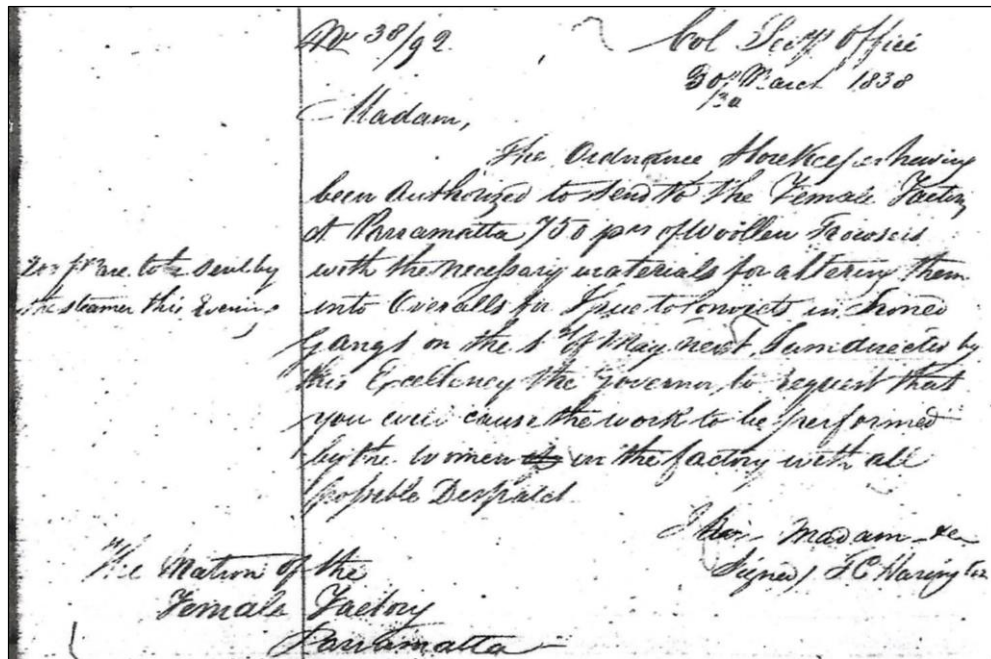
The first letter is dated 30 March 1838 ⁽¹⁾ and reveals a lesser known sewing activity performed by factory women - alterations! The letter states that *Authorisation* has been given:

'to send to the Female Factory at Parramatta 750 prs of trousers with the necessary materials for altering them into overalls for Issue to convicts in Ironed Gangs...I am directed by His Excellency the Governor, to request you will cause the work to be performed by the women in the factory with all probable Despatch.'

(1)

There is an added remark in the left column - the 750 pair of trousers were to be sent by 'the steamer' that evening.

Such was the urgency of the job! One wonders how many women had the skills for the work or whether 'doing alterations' was part of a woman's sewing repertoire as mending would have been. One also wonders how long the alterations might have taken.

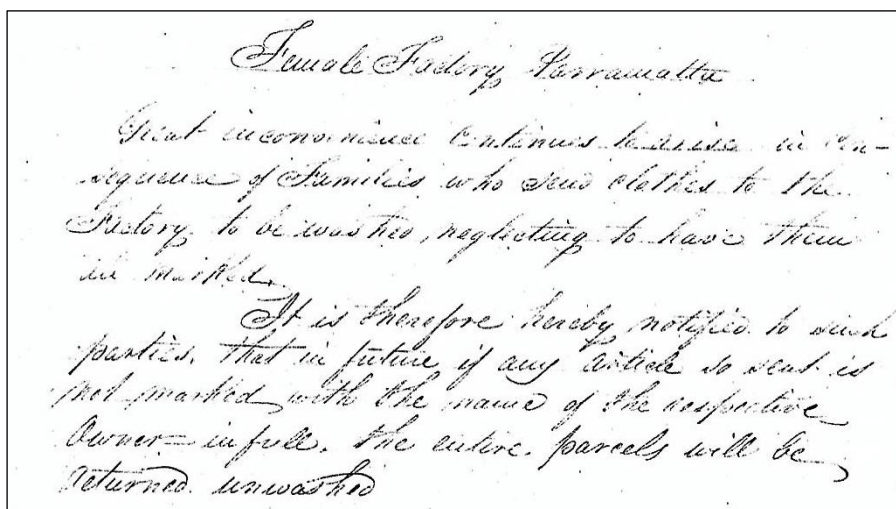


The second letter (a photocopied fragment) is dated 1840:

'Great inconvenience continues in the sequence of Families who send clothes to the Factory to be washed, neglecting to have them in marked.

It is therefore hereby notified to such parties, that in future if any article so sent is not marked with the name of the respective owner - in full, the entire parcel will be returned unwashed' ⁽²⁾.

(2)

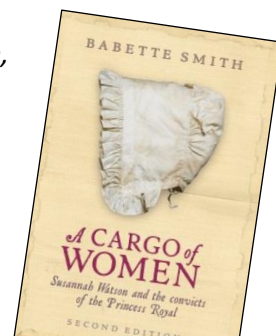


The message is clear and emphatic - *label your articles or else! And write your 'full' name!*

(1) Colonial Secretary Papers: Reel 1059 State Archives & Records NSW
 (2) Colonial Secretary Papers: Container 4/2530.2 SARNSW
 Research: Anne Mathews, Beth Matthews

Babette Smith OAM is a well known historian and author of the groundbreaking *A Cargo of Women*, which changed our understanding of Australia's female convicts. She is a great supporter of *the Friends* as well as a direct descendant of Susannah Watson (a Parramatta Female Factory woman). Recently Babette contacted us to share the news that she has donated items connected to Susannah to the Mitchell Library.

(1)



Through her research for *Cargo*, Babette discovered letters Susannah wrote to her daughters in England. She also became the custodian of a lock of Susannah's hair which was sent to England when she died and a photograph which has been available for the *Friends*' use since Babette found it. Over nearly three decades, the photograph has become one of the most iconic images of a Parramatta Female Factory woman.

Together these items form a rare legacy of an Australian convict, particularly a woman. Their value to researchers is enhanced because the letters contain a unique insight into convict opinion which influences our interpretation of the penal colonies. Despite the grief of leaving children behind, Susannah regarded transportation as 'the best thing [that] befell me'.

When asked how she could bear to give away such precious memorabilia, Babette replied:

'I'm very conscious of their importance to other researchers beyond myself. By putting them in the Mitchell Library I'm making them readily available to other scholars.'

(2)



'In Australia family research has wider significance than in most other countries. Convicts are a special category of people in our history. When we uncover the details of their lives we are making a major contribution to understanding the development Australian society since Europeans arrived.'

Ensuring that all three items were together in the Mitchell Library was not straightforward. When Mr King, the descendant of Susannah's daughter who had the letters succumbed to Alzheimer's in the nineties, his relatives sold the letters through Sotheby's auction house in London. 'When I was told this, I was absolutely horrified. Les King, the descendant, and I had agreed we would give them to the Mitchell 'in due course' which meant after he died. I took photographic copies. '

Babette had to track down Sothebys who were reluctant to tell her who bought them. But persistence paid off. The auctioneer's records revealed the letters had been bought by Maggs, the antiquarian booksellers.

'Heart in mouth, I then contacted Maggs, only to discover they were acting for a third party,' said Babette. 'They were also reluctant to tell me the name of their client. By now, I was begging, "Well can you tell me which continent they went to?"'

The story has a happy ending. It turned out that Maggs were holding a 'watching brief' for the Mitchell Library.

Les King, Susannah Watson's English descendant, had given Babette the lock of hair which she has cared for ever since, with occasional loans to the *Friends* for exhibitions including an early one organised by Gay Hendriksen when she was still Heritage Officer for the Parramatta City Council. The photograph of Susannah was found when Babette tracked down another descendant living in New South Wales in the nineteen eighties. 'Precious as they are to me, I'm very happy that all three are together in the Mitchell Library,' says Babette.

Babette, who is an Adjunct Lecturer at the University of New England, is currently writing a new book about the female convicts which has been commissioned by the National Library of Australia.



Babette speaking at the Dedication Ceremony - Female Factory Bicentenary July 7 2018

Photography: Bob Cook, Wal Phelps, Ray Allen

(1) Cover: *A Cargo of Women Susannah Watson and the convicts of the Princess Royal* by Babette Smith, second edition, published Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 2009

(2) Photographs: Susannah Watson; A Lock of Hair as shown in *Herstory - Lives of the Parramatta Female Factory Women* exhibition, Hambledon Cottage; courtesy Babette Smith OAM.

Postscript:

A Cargo of Women was first published in 1988 and remains as popular as ever - it is a true classic! The book was shortlisted for the NSW Premier's History Award in 1989. Babette's later book, *The Luck of the Irish* (published in October 2014) was shortlisted and won this prestigious Award in 2015.

Thank you Babette for sharing this amazing story of discovery and persistence and news of your precious gift - what a legacy!

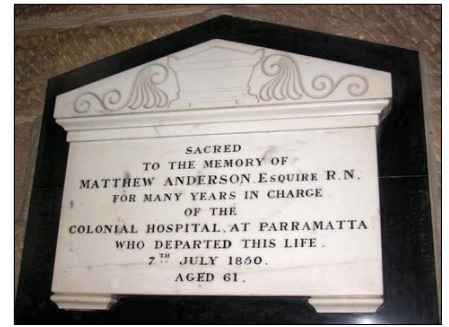
Ronda G.

HISTORY CORNER - A FEMALE FACTORY CONNECTION

In 1819:

Matthew Anderson R.N. embarked the male convict ship *Surry* on 22 December 1818 and arrived in Port Jackson on 4 March 1819. As a Surgeon Superintendent he went on to make other voyages aboard the convict transports, *Mangles* 1820 and 1822 and *Castle Forbes* 1824.

On 18 February 1824 he was appointed Colonial Surgeon and thus began his career of public service in the Colony and his connection to the convict women ⁽¹⁾.



⁽⁵⁾

Dr Matthew Anderson was surgeon at the colonial *Parramatta Hospital* and he attended to the women and children of the Factory as well as children at the Female Orphan School. Common ailments treated at the Factory were dysentery, fever, asthma and cholera and he would have attended many women *lying in* at the Factory hospital. At one stage it is reckoned there were 600-700 women and children under his care. He was Colonial Surgeon in 1828 when there had been an outbreak of whooping cough in the Colony ⁽²⁾.

Dr Anderson was also magistrate, serving on *the Committee of Management Female Factory* for a number of years and on one occasion, when accompanying the Reverend Samuel Marsden for the regular *hair shaving* day in 3rd class at the Factory, was pelted with stones - such was the women's disdain! ⁽³⁾ He was also personal doctor to John Macarthur and his family. His roles and responsibilities were diverse and the demand on his time would have been extraordinary.

Dr Matthew Anderson died in 1850 aged 61. There is a monument to him in St Johns' Cathedral, Parramatta ⁽⁴⁾.

His legacy reflects his abiding concerns for the health of the colony especially for a supply of clean water for he left a bequest of 200 pounds for the construction of a water fountain which stands today in Prince Alfred Square, Parramatta ⁽⁵⁾.

References:

(1) *Matthew Anderson R.N., Convict Ship Surgeon Superintendent* by Jenni Willetts; https://www.jenni.willetts.com/matthew_anderson_surgeon.html pages 1 and 2, retrieved 8/1/19

(2) *Caring For Convicts and the Community - A History of Parramatta Hospital* pages 22 - 23, first published by Cumberland Area Health Service Westmead NSW, 1988; reprinted 2016.*

(3) *Letter from Rev Samuel Marsden to Alexander Macleay dated 12 March 1831 - from Colonial Secretary Correspondence*, State Archives and Records NSW, cited in *Herstory Another Chapter Unfolds*, page 36, published 2017, Parramatta Female Factory Friends Inc.

(4) Photograph: Anderson Plaque: 30 August 2014 - Sandra Brown; Monument Australia; <http://monumentaustralia.org.au/themes/people/medicine/display/103078-dr-matthew-anderson>, retrieved 7/1/19

(5) *Matthew Anderson R.N., Convict ship Surgeon Superintendent* by Jenni Willetts; https://www.jenni.willetts.com/matthew_anderson_surgeon.html page 2, retrieved 8/1/19

*This book is available at Brislington Medical and Nursing Museum, cnr George & Marsden Parramatta. Opening hours are Tuesday and Thursday 10am - 2pm.
Research R. Gaffey



ADVOCACY CORNER



Late last year there was a call out from Urban Growth Development Corporation NSW for a Registration of Interest (ROI) for groups to submit proposals for activation of buildings and spaces within the Heritage Core at North Parramatta.

There are numerous buildings across the site which are not in use and likely to be activated with a range of community events, business and arts/cultural activities in the near future.

Currently two significant Colonial buildings within the Heritage Core (the Greenway Matron’s Quarters c1818-1821) and the 3rd Class Sleeping Quarters c1823-1825) are tenanted by NSW Health. The Colonial Greenway Hospital (c1818-1821) is currently unoccupied and is likely to be activated in the near future.

Occupancy within the Heritage Core so far includes *Parra Girls*, *the Men’s Shed* with PFFF occupancy in the Carpenters’ Shed in the Gipps Yard (also referred to as the *Artisan’s Yard or Wood Yard*), being finalised. PFFF understand that the occupancy is temporary.

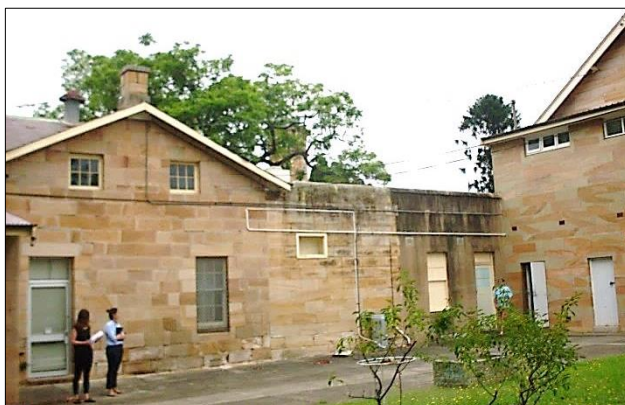
PFFF advocacy includes:

- No new buildings within the Female Factory footprint. *
- Provision of specific, dedicated spaces for museum activation and a research/resource centre.
- UNESCO World Heritage Listing for this earliest female convict site in Australia.

*Female Factory Footprint - Significant Buildings & Yards within the Heritage Core.



(Left) The Greenway Matron’s Quarters (c1818-1821)
(Above) The Matron’s Quarters with Greenway Hospital (c1818-1821) in the background.



Northern side of the Greenway Hospital viewed from the Airing Yard



View of the Airing Yard (Female Factory period) with c1860 Pavilion



The 3rd Class Sleeping Quarters (c1823-1825)



The 3rd class Yard - (Asylum period building in background)



The Dead House - Gates leading into the Gipps Yard - 1838



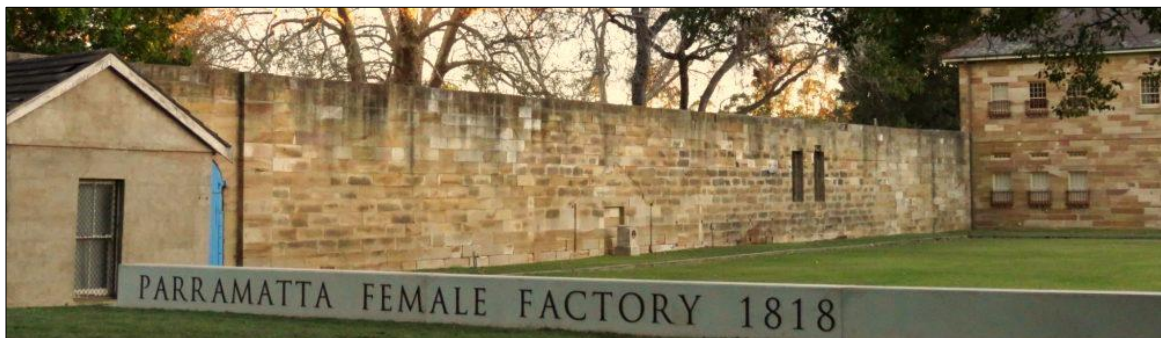
The Gipps Yard - site of the Penitentiary & Solitary Cells c1838



Liberty Vernon Building - site of Female Factory Gate entrance



2nd Class Yard Female Factory Period - (Bowling Green area)



The 2nd Class Yard and site of Female Factory Paired Cells c 1822 - the northern wall of the Gipps Yard and the Bicentenary Commemorative Wall.

2019	PFFF MEETINGS - EVENTS	& DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
January	<p>Newsletter 18th Committee Meeting 26th Australia Day</p>	<p>26th - Stall in Parramatta Park</p>
February	<p>PFF Site Tour 3rd Friday PHP 11th 15th General Meeting</p>	<p>1818 tenders out for the “new” factory at Parramatta. 1st 198th Anniversary - women transferred to the “new” factory 1821. Riots 3rd 1831, 24th 1843.</p>
March	<p>PFF Site Tour 3rd Friday Newsletter 15th Committee</p>	<p>Riot 7th March 1833</p>
April	<p>PFF Site Tours 3rd Friday PHP 8th National Trust Festival 26th General Meeting (note change to 4th Friday due to Easter)</p>	<p>National Trust Festival 18th April -19th May <i>Theme: Connecting People, Places & the Past</i></p>
May	<p>PFF Site Tour 3rd Friday Newsletter 17th Committee</p>	<p>19th May NT Festival ends</p>
June	<p>PFF Site Tour 3rd Friday PHP 17th 21st General Meeting</p>	
July	<p>PFF Site Tour 3rd Friday Newsletter 19th Committee</p>	<p>9th 201st Anniversary of Governor Macquarie laying the foundation stone for the “new” factory</p>
August	<p>PFF Site Tour 3rd Friday PHP 12th 16th AGM/General Meeting</p>	<p>History Week begins: 31st August</p>
September	<p>PFF Site Tours 3rd Friday Newsletter 20th Committee 15th NSW & ACT Family History Conference - Hornsby</p>	<p>Wisteria Fete/Linnwood stalls- History Week close: 8th Sept</p>
October	<p>PFF Site Tour 3rd Friday PHP 14th 18th General Meeting 25th RIOT DAY - 192nd Anniversary</p>	<p>Riot 11th 1836 Riot 27th 1827</p>
November	<p>PFF Site Tour 3rd Friday Newsletter 15th Committee</p>	<p>Parramatta Foundation Week Riot 29th 1831</p>
December	<p>PFF Site Tour 3rd Friday PHP 9th 14th General Meeting/Christmas Party (note change to 2nd Friday)</p>	

