

**PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS INC.  
NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO: 28 JULY - AUGUST 2019**



Contact: [parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com](mailto:parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com) or PO Box 1358 Parramatta 2124  
 PFFF website: [parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au](http://parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au)  
 History: [parramattafemalefactories.wordpress.com](http://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 16 August 2019 - AGM at 1.30: General Meeting at 2:00pm followed by afternoon tea.**

**VENUE: Parramatta Female Factory Friends' Room (Carpenters Shed/Archaeology office), Gipps Yard, 5 Fleet Street, North Parramatta.**

Content	Page
President.....	2
Noticeboard.....	3
History Corner.....	3
'Our Girls' .....	4
Descendant's Corner.....	5
Stop Press .....	8
Directions to the Factory.....	9
Advocacy Corner.....	10
Petition.....	11

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Factory Friends,

June and July have proven to be a busy time. Although all the things we achieve are a result of the wonderful commitment of our membership there are two fabulous outcomes to share.



The first is we finally have a Friend's Home. The contract is signed and keys given- we now have the **Parramatta Female Factory Friends' Rooms**. We also have storage in the Deadhouse. As this is a government site it will need regular renewal. Located in the Gipps Yard of the factory it was previously used by the Carpenters onsite and later as the Archaeology Office. Our AGM will be held in our rooms! Although the rooms may be open at a range of times by appointment or as part of a tour they will be open the third Friday of the month from 9:30am to 4:00pm. So do come to the AGM on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August and have a look. Of course there will be items we need for our new home. We will let you know what we need prior to the AGM in case you have items that may fit the bill. For the AGM bring yourself and if you feel inclined a plate of food to celebrate. I look forward to seeing you there!

The second is the inaugural performance of *Forgotten*, a play inspired by the Parramatta Female Factory and the 1827 workers action/riot! This has been written by our membership secretary Cate Whittaker. I can highly recommend it to you. It is not a documentary about the event but a play that shares with a kind truthfulness only art can do. If you would like a real sense of the kind of relationships, stories, experiences then this play is for you. Although performed by high school students the performances were fabulous. My only complaint was it made at least three of us cry! Well done Cate!

Another creative work that is inspired by the strength of convict women is the book *Fled*. This is written by Meg Keneally and is inspired by the life of the famous first fleeter, Mary Bryant. It is a story of strength, love, hardship and incredible navigation skills. Definitely a must read!

In other news all activities with UGDC are in a holding pattern including the Registration of Interest that the Friends participated in. This is a result of a restructure within the department, as there also is in a number of NSW government instrumentalities at this time. We will keep abreast of these changes and where the custodianship direction will go. We are also looking at the Parramatta Leagues Club development application for a hotel and what its likely impact and issues are.

Research, outreach talks and tours are still going strong. If you have the inclination to be involved in providing tours please do let Steve, our Tour coordinator know.

The site changes primarily relate to the moving elements of infrastructure and maintenance work. Activity relating to the third class sleeping quarters relates to moving some of the Health infrastructure away from this key factory building.

As you know annual Riot Day is just around the corner so if you would like to assist with this there are a number of ways you can be involved. Please advise at the next meeting. This year it will be Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October. More information coming out soon.

I would like to take a moment to thank what has been a fabulous hard working Committee. Without them we would not be in such a positive place with our advocacy, access, sharing stories, conservation monitoring, promotion of museum use for the site; grants, tours, catering, membership, community liaison, newsletter, publicity, petition gathering, event support, economic stability, great record keeping, up to date legal documentation and minutes, code of ethics and conduct, research and other things that keep us robust. Thank you to each of you.

Now sit back and enjoy this latest issue of the Parramatta Female Factory Friends' Newsletter.

All the best

Gay Hendriksen  
President

Parramatta Female  
Factory Friends' Rooms-



## NOTICEBOARD

- **NEXT MEETING: AGM, Friday 16 August 2019 at 1:30pm. General Meeting at 2:00pm.**  
**Venue:** Parramatta Female Factory Friends' Room, 5 Fleet Street North Parramatta (see page 9/10 for directions).
- **A reminder:** Please note **ANNUAL membership fees** (\$10) are due July 1 each year. Post cheque to: The Treasurer PFFF PO Box 1358, Parramatta 2124 or direct debit (BUT PLEASE put your name on EFT so we know *who* deposited the money) - BSB: 633 000 ACC: 151 276 763. Many thanks.

## HISTORY CORNER - Pioneer Women Acknowledged & Celebrated

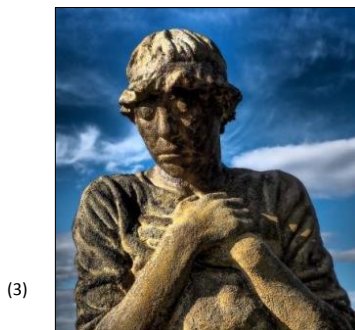
Congratulations to our colleagues of *The Womens' Pioneer Society of Australasia* (WPS) who are celebrating 90 years since their foundation.

On 7 June 1929, five women met in the Royal Botanical Gardens to discuss forming a society of women descendants of the early pioneers. Today the Society has an Australia-wide membership which includes female descendants of early military personnel, government officials, convicts and free settlers. (1)

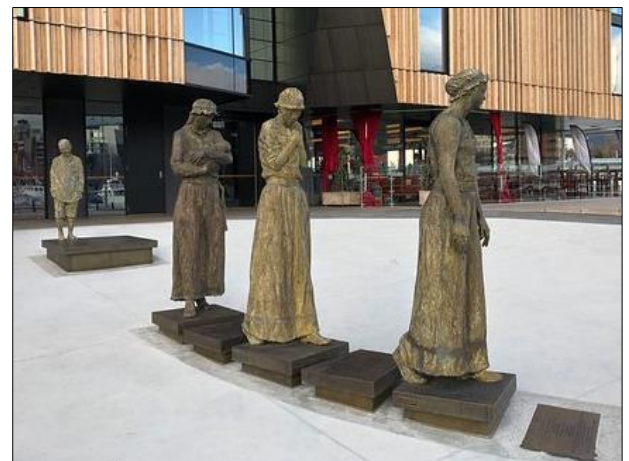
In 1988 the WPS commissioned sculptor Dr Alex Sandor Kolozy to create a monument honouring Women Pioneers - the statue is located in the Jessie Street Gardens near Circular Quay. (2)



Pioneer women monuments are also located in Melbourne in the King's Domain and in the heart of the Western Australian Botanic Garden in Perth. In Hobart there is a series of sculptures (*the Footsteps to Freedom Project*) memorialising Irish convict women - the statues were modelled on living convict women's descendants by Irish sculptor, Rowan Gillespie and are located on Macquarie Wharf. (3)



(3)



References:

(1) <https://womenspioneer.com.au/history> Accessed July 7 2019

(3) Photographs: The Footsteps to Freedom Project Sculptures by Rowan Gillespie at Macquarie Wharf Hobart; <https://monumentaaustralia.org.au> Accessed July 7 2019



**DESTINATION: PARRAMATTA - ELLEN MOON NEE ELIZABETH HARKINS, WIFE OF JAMES SMITH**

In 1824, aged 30, Elizabeth Moon, known as Ellen, was convicted of bleach-green theft and sentenced to *Transportation for Life* to NSW. Growing up in County Derry on a dairy farm with parents John Harkins and Margaret Farrell, she married a farmer from Antrim, had one child and worked as a bleach-green milker and washerwoman<sup>1</sup>, spreading linen on the ground to bleach using cow dung and milk.



Figure 1. Photographer unknown, *Bleach-Green at Glenmore Bleach Works House, Lisburn County, Antrim Northern Ireland*.<sup>2</sup> One such bleach-green near Belfast covered six miles by three.

The importance of the Irish Linen industry made stealing from bleach-greens a capital offence, the penalty adjusted in 1810 from death to transportation.

Listed as '*Elizabeth Moon alias Harkin/Harkins*', Ellen sailed by mail packet from Belfast to Cork, then to Sydney aboard the *Mariner* commanded by Master Fotherley with Surgeon Superintendent Cochrane and 111 other female convicts. She arrived 120 days later on 10 July 1825, having left her family with neither hope of seeing them again nor, being illiterate, maintaining contact.

The Sydney Gazette 21 July 1825 reported "*The convicts were kept on board until 18th July when they were disembarked and sent to Parramatta Female Factory by water*".<sup>3</sup>

The 1825 Convict Muster reports her as working in the Parramatta Female Factory. The factory was

*"a place of assignment, a hospital, a marriage bureau, a factory, an asylum and a prison for those who committed a crime in the Colony"*<sup>4</sup>.

Many women were

*"sent to work for free settlers, or even convict settlers...The idea was that any man wanting to marry one of the girls would apply...Most convicts were assigned to settlers and emancipated convicts after an application for a convict servant or worker was lodged with the Governor. Some married convicts were even assigned to their free spouses."*<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Elizabeth Moon, *Convict Indent, Bound Indentures 1823-1826*, State Records Authority of NSW, Sydney, Series: NRS 12188; Item: [4/4009A]; Microfiche: 656

<sup>2</sup> Photographer unknown, *Bleach Green at Glenmore Bleach Works House Lisburn County Antrim Northern Ireland* Source: Lisburn Museum, Accessed 10 May 1027 <http://www.lisburnmuseum.com/2014/10/guest-post-glenmore-bleach-works/>

<sup>3</sup> Free Settler or Felon, 'Convict Ship Mariner', [http://www.jenwillets.com/convict\\_ship\\_mariner\\_1825.htm](http://www.jenwillets.com/convict_ship_mariner_1825.htm), Accessed 11 May 2017

<sup>4</sup> Dictionary of Sydney 'Parramatta Female Factory', [http://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/parramatta\\_female\\_factory](http://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/parramatta_female_factory), Accessed 12 May 2017

<sup>5</sup> Convicts to Australia, 'Convict Life' <http://members.iinet.net.au/~perthdps/convicts/res-10.html>, Accessed 12 May 2017

In 1825 emancipist James Smith came to the Parramatta Female Factory to find a wife. Eleven years her senior, he was from County Fermanagh, had received seven years' transportation in 1818 for burglary and had gained his Certificate of Freedom in 1824.<sup>6</sup>

Perhaps he was attracted by her brown complexion, freckles, dark red hair and chestnut eyes,<sup>7</sup> her Irish Catholic background from the neighbouring county to his and her rural background desirable in a wife for he was now an orchard farmer on '100 acres, 25 acres cleared and cultivated'<sup>8</sup> at Lower Portland Head, on the Hawkesbury River 80 km northwest of Sydney, known as the 'granary of the colony'.



Figure 4: Conrad Martens *River Hawkesbury near Wiseman's Ferry 1838*<sup>9</sup>

After initial confusion between Ellen and another convict,<sup>10</sup> permission was granted but they did not marry until 1829. Ellen was apparently assigned as James's servant for the 1828 Census showed James 'free by servitude' and Ellen Smith 'government servant' at Lower Portland with 18 month old Ellen and 3 month old James.<sup>11</sup> The marriage records her name as Ellen Harkon thereby confirming her identity as Elizabeth Moon nee Harkins.<sup>12</sup> It was not uncommon for married convicts to marry again given an erroneous belief that if one party were transported, both parties were released from their marriage and free to marry again.

James and Ellen had seven children: Ellen (1827) James (1828), John (1829), Terrence (1830), Ann (1832), Thomas (1834) and Mary (1837).<sup>13</sup>

It seems that they prospered for in 1838 James Smith is listed as a donor for the erection of a Catholic Primary School at Lower Portland Head.<sup>14</sup> Ellen was eleven years both wife and assigned servant until pardoned in 1840 as

<sup>6</sup> James Smith, Certificate of Freedom, New South Wales, Australia, Certificates of Freedom, 1927-1867. State Archives NSW

<sup>7</sup> Elizabeth Moon alias Harkins *Convict Registers of Conditional and Absolute Pardons, 1788-1870* State Records Authority of New South Wales Reel Number: 797; Roll Number: 1250

<sup>8</sup> Census Record for James Smith 1828 '1828 Census: Householders' returns.

<sup>9</sup> Conrad Martens *River Hawkesbury near Wiseman's Ferry 1838* Source: Trove <http://trove.nla.gov.au/work/26811825?q&versionId=32299646>. Accessed 15 May 2017

<sup>10</sup> Ellen Moon was confused with Eleanor Moore who had arrived in the same ship. This story has been documented and placed onto Ancestry.com

<sup>11</sup> Ancestry, Census Record for James Smith 1828 '1828 Census: Householders' returns, State Records Authority of New South Wales. Accessed 12 May 2017

<sup>12</sup> Ancestry, Marriage Record for James Smyth and Ellen Harkon. Australian Marriage Index, 1788-1950 Accessed 1 May 2017

<sup>13</sup> Ancestry, Birth Index, 1788-1922. Ancestry. Accessed 1 May 2017

<sup>14</sup> Valerie Ross, *A Hawkesbury Story*, Sydney, Library of Australian History, 1981. p158

'Elizabeth Moon alias Harkins of the ship Mariner 1825', having served 15 years of her life sentence.<sup>15</sup> James died in 1857 aged 73 of "disease of the lung"<sup>16</sup> and Ellen in 1862 aged 67 of "old age".<sup>17</sup> Both are buried in Windsor.<sup>18</sup>

On her arrival at the Parramatta Female Factory, how astonished Ellen would have been to be informed that 194 years later her name would be listed as Australian Royalty and that among her many successful descendants would be an Australian Prime Minister.<sup>19</sup> Descended from Ellen's second son John, are Coral Lansbury and her son ex-Prime Minister of Australia, Malcolm Turnbull.<sup>20</sup>

My family are descended from James' youngest daughter Mary, the name of Smith being a middle name across four generations while Joy is descended from their first son James.

---

<sup>15</sup> Ellen Moon alias Harkins, Convict Record

<sup>16</sup> Death certificate of James Smith. Died 11<sup>th</sup> January 1857, Register of Births, Deaths and Marriages, New South Wales 1857/004650

<sup>17</sup> Death Certificate of Ellen Smith, died 26<sup>th</sup> December, 1862.

<sup>18</sup> Elizabeth Moon alias Harkins, Convict Record

<sup>19</sup> <https://australianroyalty.net.au/individual.php?pid=182403&ged=purnellmccord.ged>

<sup>20</sup> People Australia <http://peopleaustralia.anu.edu.au/treeview/17319> Accessed 20 August 2018

---

## The Voyage of the Mariner - from ship to shore and onto Parramatta...

The ship *Mariner* departed Cork, Ireland on 2 March 185 carrying 113 female convicts. The surgeon, Harmon Cochrane kept a medical journal which details life on board as well as his numerous medical duties.

It would appear that half the women on board reported suffering from epilepsy - a complaint which became more frequent as the ship entered the tropics. Cochrane noted that whether by contagion or imitation, the number of patients reporting with epilepsy lessened when the ship entered colder regions. (1)

On disembarkation in Sydney 10 July 1825, the women were despatched to Parramatta Female Factory by water transport. The journey to the Factory raised a few eyebrows and was reported at length in the Sydney Gazette & NSW Advertiser: (2)

*The female prisoners per the Mariner who arrived in a state of the best of health, were drafted to Parramatta by water, on Monday last. We would beg to call the attention of HIM, who is said now to have the female prisoners in the Factory, committed to his immediate care and guardianship to the custom of forwarding the women either by the passage boats or by the stage coaches. Though we are loth to lessen the advantages that may possibly accrue from this source of laudable gain, yet a due regard to moral feeling requires some other mode of conveyance, unless the boat, or the coach, could be engaged by Government solely for their accommodation, and then be escorted by individuals who would not betray the confidence necessarily reposed in them as is too generally the case when given in charge of a constable who cares not what becomes of the unfortunate women so that he can laugh, and smoke and drink. The scenes that have passed on these occasions, by the most correct information, beggar all possibility of description - indeed we dare not attempt the portrait. We have no doubt, therefore that this monstrous evil will be for ever put a stop to-*

---

(1) [https://www.jenwilletts.com/convict\\_ship\\_mariner\\_1825.htm](https://www.jenwilletts.com/convict_ship_mariner_1825.htm). Accessed July 8 2019

(2) Sydney Gazette & NSW Advertiser 21 July 1825 page

## STOP PRESS!

The Annual Conference of the  
NSW & ACT...

Don't miss this opportunity to attend the Annual NSW & ACT Family History Conference which is being held in Sydney this year.

Friday 11 October is free and set aside as a Family History Fair Day with lots of information stalls - drop by the PFFF table, catch up with friends and fellow history buffs.

Across the 3 days of Conference, there is a range of speakers as well as plenty opportunity to seek that elusive clue or pick up a tip or two.

For the full Conference program follow the link.



Exploring  
the  
Past

35th Annual Conference of the  
NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies

11-13 October 2019  
at Knox Grammar School,  
Pacific Highway, Wahroonga

FRIDAY 10-4: FREE Family History Fair  
(open to the public)  
Evening Meet and Greet  
SATURDAY: Conference  
Evening Conference Dinner  
SUNDAY Morning: Conference

For full details see  
<http://exploringthepast.khs.org.au/>

Hosted by  
Ku-ring-gai Historical Society



Ku-ring-gai Historical Society

## ANNOUNCING A NEW EXHIBITION AT OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE PARRAMATTA

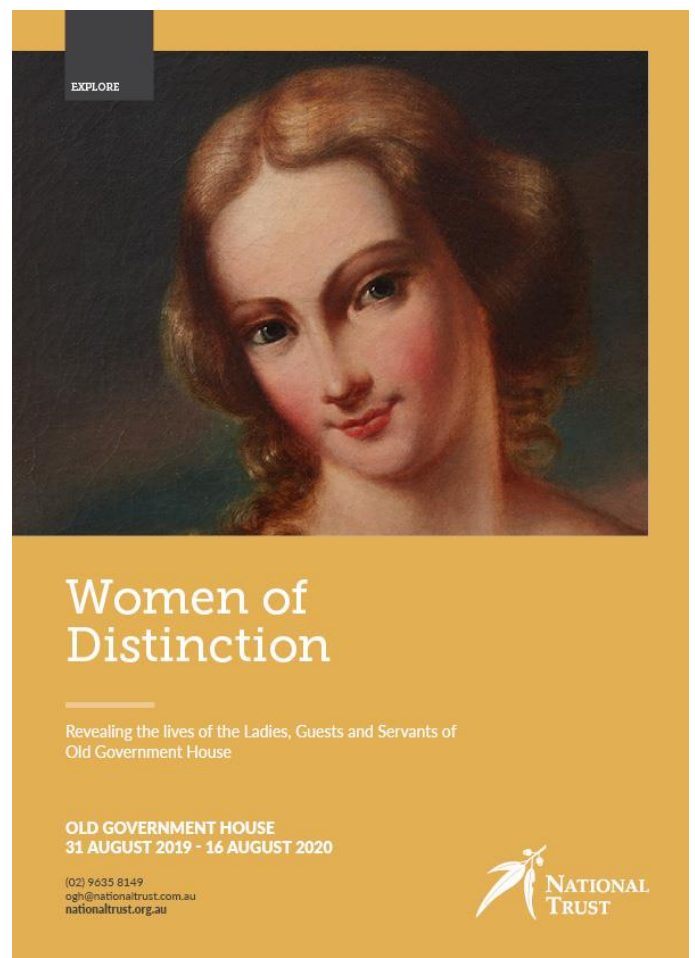
Old Government House proudly presents an exciting new exhibition revealing the lives of the women who lived in, worked at and influenced this World Heritage listed property throughout the many decades of change.

Celebrate with us, the remarkable courage of these *Women of Distinction*.


The Exhibition opens on 31 August 2019 and runs until 16 August 2019.

Anna Ridley (Curator).

Portrait: Mary Caroline Stewart by Richard Noble: Collection of National Trust NSW.



EXPLORE




Women of  
Distinction

Revealing the lives of the Ladies, Guests and Servants of  
Old Government House

OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
31 AUGUST 2019 - 16 AUGUST 2020

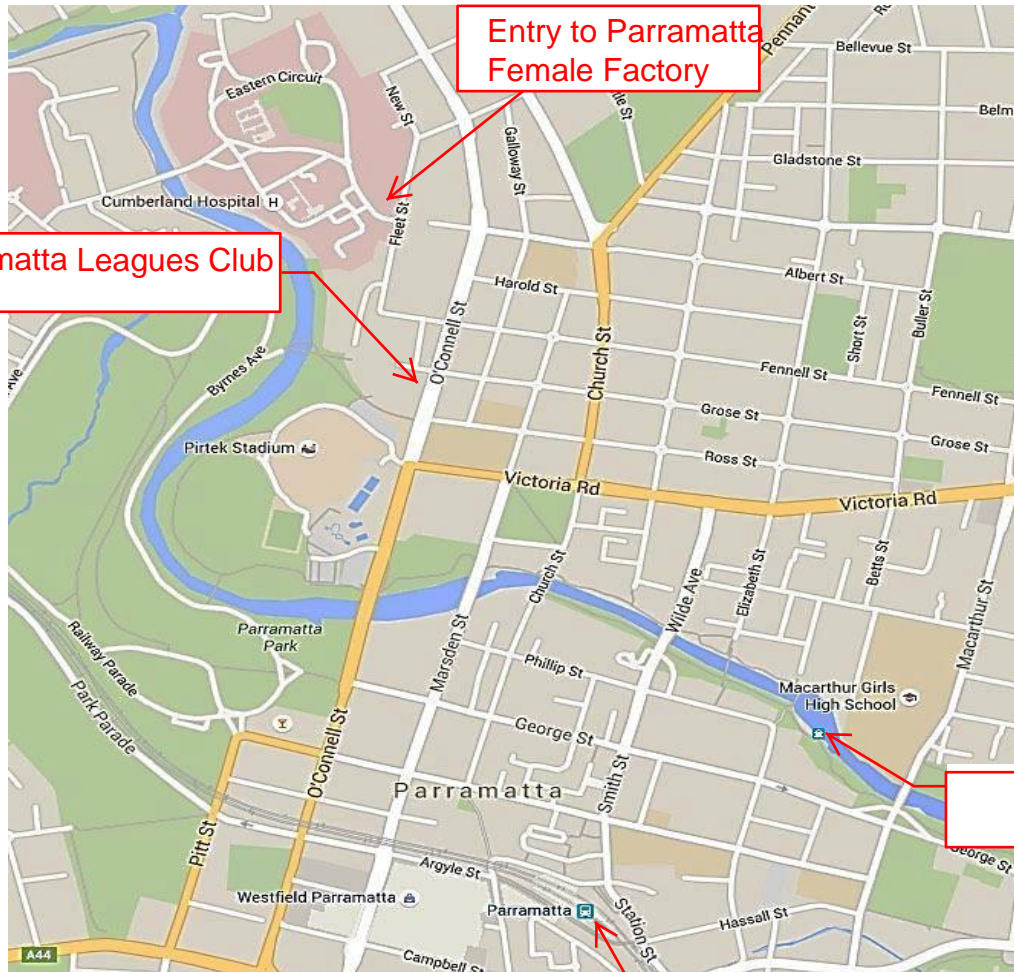
(02) 9635 8149  
ogh@nationaltrust.com.au  
nationaltrust.org.au



NATIONAL  
TRUST

# DIRECTIONS TO PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY, PARRAMATTA, NSW ©WM

Cumberland Hospital, 5 Fleet Street, North Parramatta

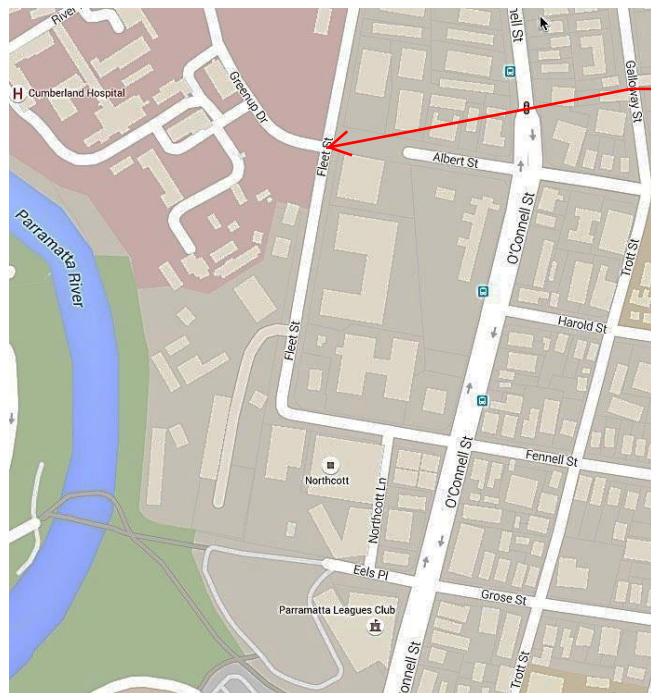


Parramatta Leagues Club

Entry to Parramatta Female Factory

Parramatta Ferry Wharf

Parramatta Railway Station



Entry to Parramatta Female Factory  
5 Fleet Street North Parramatta  
Cumberland Hospital Entrance

Take shuttle bus from Macquarie Street,  
Short walk to Cumberland Hospital.

Map: Courtesy Google Maps. \* check Shuttle Bus stop - Light Rail construction may impact current starting point.

## PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS' ROOM -

### Cumberland Hospital, 5 FLEET STREET NORTH PARRAMATTA

#### Directions:

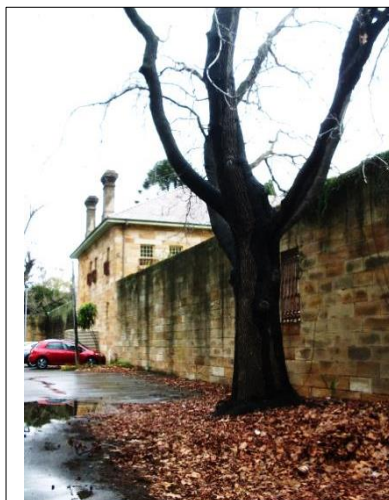
1. Enter at Cumberland Hospital entrance - large sandstone building (HETI) is ahead (1). Commemorative wall with sign is to the left.
2. Turn left & follow road through the blue gate into the Gipps Yard.
3. Turn immediate right - continue on beside wall then turn left.
4. The **Carpenters' Shed** is ahead - in far right hand corner of the Gipps Yard. Limited parking is available.



1.



2. Commemorative Wall and blue gates leading into the Gipps Yard. (The 'Dead House' is on left of gate entrance).



3. Sandstone wall inside the Gipps Yard looking towards the River.



4. Follow road around and turn left - ahead is the Carpenters' Shed - our new "home".



## ADVOCACY CORNER

### OUR NEW HOME -

This will provide a great opportunity to continue our vision and advocacy work as well as connect with each other. Fingers crossed for a permanent home in the future!

### PETITIONS! PETITIONS!

Please help us in one last push - we are almost there. A copy of the petition is attached for printing.

More petitions were gathered and more merchandise sold at the recent performances of *Forgotten*.

Photographs: at *Forgotten* - PFFF stall; Janice Ruse - Huntington, Cate Whittaker, Christina Henri, Gay Hendriksen.



