

PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY

PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS (PFFF) - ACHIEVEMENTS & MILESTONES - 2011 - 2022

In December 2010 the Parramatta Female Factory 3rd Class Penitentiary building was threatened with being turned into a computer data room. This alarmed many heritage professionals, the local Federal member and community members. Word was passed around and 40 concerned people met in a local café next to the Parramatta River.

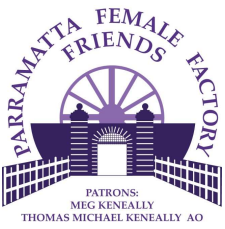
Enlisting the help of Museums Australia NSW and some key museum professionals, a successful action saved the Third-Class Penitentiary from a terrible fate. Many of these 40 individuals were the core of the Parramatta Female Factory Action Group which we now know as the Parramatta Female Factory Friends. The PFFF foundation membership and first Committee formed. Our first event was International Women's Day, 8 March 2011, which included talks in the 3rd Class Penitentiary and site tours. The PFFF Charter was written in 2011 followed by the Constitution. The group has thrived, and achievements include:

- * Sustained advocacy with local, State and Federal authorities for the PFF site to be preserved, developed and managed as a site of national and international significance according to the ICOMOS Burra Charter.
- * Successfully led community action to prevent the iconic 3rd Class Sleeping Quarters and Penitentiary building (c1823-26) being used as a data room in 2010.
- * Successful negotiation - CFMEU 'green bans' in 2012, given the existential threats to the female factory site.
- * Submission written for National Heritage Listing, begun in 2012 and achieved in November 2017.
- * Since inception, established partnerships with a range of community, local and national history, and heritage groups both professional and community, to promote the heritage and the high significance of the site.
- * Established the now iconic Parramatta Event - the Annual Riot Day Commemoration focusing on the factory riot of 1827. This has been an annual event since 2011.
- * Participation in Annual Family History Conferences, heritage site Open Days, Australia Day and National Trust Festival events.
- * Sustained advocacy through talks, seminars and conference papers about the factory and the women for professional and community heritage organisations.
- * Promotion and media coverage on local and Australia-wide radio including ABC 702, 2GB, Alive 90.5, Sydney U3A and on social media platforms.
- * Sustained regular site monitoring over the years - alerting NSW government authorities of site issues.

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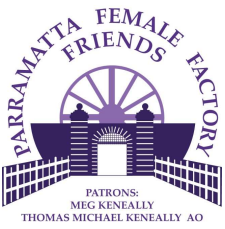
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- * In 2016, Meg Keneally (a factory woman's descendant) and Tom Keneally AO, became Patrons of PFFF.
- * Working in partnership with Parramatta & District Historical Society - meetings held at the Coach House at Hambledon Cottage (2011-2019) and a successful Herstory exhibition held in the HC Lucas Gallery.
- * Two publications launched: Herstory -The Lives of the Parramatta Female Factory in 2016 and Herstory - Another Chapter Unfolds in 2017.
- * Developed a vision for a museum and resource centre of national standing.
- * Success in collecting 10,000 petition signatures asking the NSW Government to support world heritage.
- * Presentation of the petition with 10,000 signatures to NSW State Parliament in 2017.
- * Participating in SPROUT - a NSW Government community forum re future adaptive re-use of the North Parramatta heritage site. Heritage identified at the core of future development, November 2016.
- * The term, 'Heritage Core' is first used in NSW Government documents; core factory buildings described as being 'exceptional heritage value'. PFFF acknowledged as site 'stakeholders' in 2017.
- * A Registration of Interest submitted to NSW Government re the site's future occupation - PFFF advocacy for a National Resource/Research/Museum and Site interpretation in 2018.
- * In 2018, successfully negotiating with Urban Growth NSW, the construction of the Commemorative Wall at the factory site, honouring the convict women and for a sign identifying the factory site.
- * Developing and hosting the Macquarie Bicentenary 7th July 2018, commemorating Governor Lachlan Macquarie laying the first stone for the first purpose - built female barracks and factory at North Parramatta; many dignitaries and over 1,500 attended.
- * Successfully negotiating with UGNSW (later Infrastructure NSW) for a presence at the site - temporary rooms allocated in June 2019.
- * PFFF recipients of a City of Parramatta Community Award - Australia Day 2019 for advocacy and volunteer contribution to research, education and tourism. Individual Members are recipients of history/heritage/volunteer awards which include: A NSW Heritage Council Award, a NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Award and two members have received a Royal Australian Historical Society Achievement Award.



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- * A further 11,000 plus signatures collected for UNESCO World Heritage Petition to Federal Parliament.**
- * Motion of support for UNESCO World Heritage listing, passed by City of Parramatta.**
- * Ms. Julie Owens MP accepted the World Heritage Petition in an event at the factory site in March 2020.**
- * Ms. Susan Templeman MP presented the WH Petition to Federal Parliament in June 2020.**
- * Submission for World Heritage listing accepted by Parliamentary Petitions Committee - progressed in 2021.**
- * A new publication released in 2020, History-Herstory-Ourstory Commemorating 200 Years at the Parramatta Female Factory with an accompanying memory stick wafer.**
- * Sustained members' research with countless women's profiles written.**
- * PFFF launched the Parramatta Female Factory Research Room in 2020 and the tea room named the Matron Gordon Tea Room.**
- * From inception, maintained bi-monthly general meetings and monthly committee meetings.**
- * Bi-monthly Guest Speakers' Programme since 2014.**
- * In 2015, a bi-monthly newsletter was launched and is now in its 6th year of publication and 42nd edition.**
- * Bi-monthly Workshop Programme launched in 2020.**
- * Received a Parramatta Leagues Club Grant for the 1821-2021 Bicentenary song suite commission.**
- * Bicentenary 1821-2021 held in February 2021 and launch of Mothers of the Nation song suite commission.**
- * National Trust Heritage Festival participation in 2021 incorporating site activation with inaugural character vignettes and readings in the 3rd Class Penitentiary.**
- * Participated in the Parramatta Foundation Day Festival 2019 and 2021.**
- * A milestone reached with success in negotiations with NSW Dept. Planning, Infrastructure & Environment for a 'permanent home' in a building within the factory footprint, 2022.**