



PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS INC. NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO: 61 **SUMMER EDITION** JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2025



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Twitter: <https://twitter.com/pffriends/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCON2Yp3db1AgVLHc7JdmXxQ>

Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com.au/parramattafemalefactoryfriends/>

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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:** Frank Williams
Treasurer/Public Officer: Sharyn Byrne **General Secretary:** vacant **Committee:** WHS
Officer: Gary Carter, **Site Watch:** Judith Dunn OAM, **Editor/Publicity Officer:** Ronda Gaffey, **Membership Secretary:** Lorraine Henshaw, **Minutes Secretary/Guest Speaker Coordinator:** Lyn Watkins, **Technical Officer/Tour Coordinator:** Kevin Dodds

Next Meeting: **Friday 21st February 2025 with Guest Speaker at 1pm**
followed by General Meeting at 2.15pm
Venue: PFFF Rooms, 5 Fleet Street, North Parramatta.
Parking available at Parramatta Leagues Club Car Park.
Parramatta Light Rail from Parramatta Square to Ngara - short walk to site.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Factory Friends,

Welcome to our summer edition of the Newsletter. The New Year is shaping up with activities already, regardless of the heat, rain and thunderstorm that have been this summer!



This year has started with a flurry and the surprising news of a precinct-wide rezoning application by the NSW State Government. The National Heritage Listing areas are excluded from this but have the potential for significant impact on the site. While the footprint has no signs of new buildings, the curtilage directly north and east do, so our advocacy is very much needed at this time with vigilance and sharing information critical to the direct context of the Parramatta Female Factory. The building numbers and heights will be the potential impact and should not be 20+ storeys as requested by private development previously. For the details go to:

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/draftplans/exhibition/parramatta-north-precinct-state-led-rezoning>
(this is a live link if you receive your newsletter digitally)

A good news development story is the Parramatta Leagues Club who shared their development plans with the PFFF Committee. You may remember a plan for a 17 storey building. Well the PLC decided to make their new buildings on the footprint no higher than the stadium which is a 75% height reduction on the previous plan and will include community open spaces and facilities access. They cited the importance of the Heritage Core and are to be commended on this decision.

Our second edition Herstory Bicentennial Book is now on sale .

Our Creative Initiative grant applications are now open, so please share with those you know who might like to enter. There are three awards – the residency, highly commended and student which for this year will be a Writer in Residence Program.

Our new calendar of events is out and there promises to be a great range of activities including, talks, workshops, members' morning teas, open days and more.

Our activities underscore our dedication to advocacy, operational excellence, and public engagement, as we continue to pursue our goals and support our community.

All the best and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Gay Hendriksen
President PFFF



Christmas Lunch at the Parramatta Leagues Club, our generous sponsors in 2024:
PFFF Committee, Researchers, Catering Team, Guides, spouses and PLC CEO , President and Board rep.

PFFF Volunteers - FIRST AID COURSE All Wrapped Up!

In November, PFFF volunteers committed to an intensive online component then a practical, to complete a Royal Life Saving NSW First Aid Course. Congratulations to all participants!

Lorraine, Kevin, Judith, Gary, Margo and Gay -
Tabitha behind the camera.



A warm PFFF welcome to new members:

Brielle Streater, Donna Streater, Joanne Hrast, Diane Anderson, Melisa Ridge, Sharyn Byrne, Faye Combe, Ann Fallows, Linda Roy, Diane Sadler, Marilyn Marsh, Mary Myers, Robert Waddell, Peter Keeda, Mary Boyle, Margaret Smith, Patricia Martin, Patricia Kay Williams, Jennifer Cantle and Graeme Regan.

NOTICEBOARD

- **Dates for your Diary: Next General Meeting and Afternoon Tea - Guest Speaker 1pm Friday 21st February 2025, General Meeting at 2:15pm (see 2025 PFFF Calendar page 10).**
- **PFFF International Women's Day Event - Saturday 8th March - more details soon!**

HISTORY CORNER - The Fleet Street Quarry, North Parramatta

Ronda Gaffey



Directly opposite the Parramatta Female Factory site entrance, there is a rather secret place - the site of the Fleet Street Quarry. It was here that the stone for the Factory and later Asylum buildings was quarried as well as the stone for the kerbing along Church Street Parramatta and the Parramatta Goal. The Quarry was operational from the early 1800s to the 1890s.

Today, the rich source of sandstone is still evident and the stairs to Albert Street above are well-worn. It is worth a wander across Fleet Street, stand awhile and imagine the activity here two hundred years ago!

Reference: Article, Peter Arafinis - Parramatta Heritage Centre, 2015.

In 1825, four female convict ships arrived in Port Jackson. They were the ships Mariner, Midas, Henry and Grenada. As always, a close look at extracts from the ship’s journal and ship statistics are fascinating.

The *Mariner* left Cork Harbour on 2nd March, 1825 with 113 convict women on board and arrived in Sydney Cove on 10th July 1825 in the late evening.¹

The voyage had taken 130 days. There was one death on the journey - Eleanor Dalton aged 25, a native of Cork, sentenced for seven years for *stealing a pistol*, died of asthma before the surgeon was able to treat her.

The voyage was mostly uneventful though the ship’s surgeon Dr. Harman Cochrane RN reported a rather mysterious ailment suffered by a number of women - he wrote that he treated at least half the women for epilepsy which became more apparent when the ship entered the tropics. He attended case after case, thinking that the reasons for the women’s violent fitting and restlessness was due to the excessive heat which none would have experienced before, or perhaps it was linked to some contagion. Also, he raised the question of whether the women were simply mimicing each other. Remarkably, all settled down and there were no further cases once the ship sailed into cooler waters.²

The women on board *Mariner* were a mix of country women, tried in various county courts across Ireland and women from Dublin.

The oldest *Mariner* woman was Margaret McKenna from County Down who was aged 59. One woman, Catherine McKenny, of Donegal, aged 52 died in Cork Gaol Hospital before embarkation.

One older woman was Cecily Toohey a dairy woman from County Mayo, aged 47. She was a widow with nine children. Cecily was not impressed with her circumstances and within 18 months of arrival, had been reported as absconding twice from the Factory.³ Her third offence was in September 1829 when she absconded from J. Henery of Sydney - she was aged 51 and still determined for her voice to be heard!⁴

Three of the youngest women on board were all 18 years of age and single; they included Catherine Driscoll, a housemaid from Cork; Ellen Drew, a seamstress of Dublin and Mary Draper, a housemaid also of Dublin.

The *Mariner* women were working women and brought a range of occupations. Women from the country appear to be multi-skilled being described with at least two and sometimes three occupations. For example: Sally Bannon aged 25 of Omagh, Tyrone was a washerwoman, milker and butter maker; Anne Bergen aged 22 of Limerick was a milkmaid, butter maker and cheese maker; Mary Godfrey aged 40 of Clonmel, Tipperary was a butter maker, milkmaid and seamstress; Frances O’Connell aged 40 of Cork was a school mistress and needlewoman.⁵ Three Dublin women had ‘town’ trades - Lucy Fox aged 40 was a silk trimmer; Elizabeth Piggott aged 27, was a milliner and Rose Coleman aged 44, was a boot maker and shoe closer.

Of the 112 women landed in Sydney, 15 had family members in the Colony - all having been transported earlier. There were 13 women whose husbands had arrived previously - they included Sally Bannon, Elizabeth Heyburn, Rosanna Hayden, Catherine Langan, Mary Read, Hannah Roche, Mary Ryan, Mary Ann Wilson, Elizabeth Nicholson, Eleanor Moore, Sarah Murdock, Frances McCarthy and Mary McCabe. Catherine Armstrong had a sister and Bridget Kelly had a brother in the Colony.



References:

¹ *Convict Records - Mariner*; ² Jenni Willetts: *freesettlerorfelon - Mariner 1825*; ³ *Sydney Gazette* 9th April 1827; ⁴ *Ibid* 24th September 1829;

⁵ Peter Mayberry, *Irish Convicts to NSW 1788-1849*; Images - Cork Harbour 19thC; Dublin City c1820.

PFFF RESEARCH CENTRE MUSTER

Gay Hendriksen Research Coordinator
Parramatta Female Factory Friends Research Centre & Babette Smith Collection

Our Research Centre workshop program for this new year includes recording and cataloguing your family history collections, AI (Artificial Intelligence) as a family history research tool, craft workshops, Genealogy and DNA for a start.

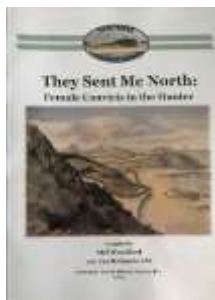
Our Factory women's list continues to grow so please keep those names and stories coming in. You can give directly to us at the Research Centre or email it to:
parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com and put 'Research Centre' in the subject field. That way we can ensure they are shared with all Australians.

We have access to the *Iron Clad Sisterhood* records for you to explore at the Research Centre, courtesy of our collaboration with the Society of Australian Genealogists.

Good reads and online history adventures this time are:

Books:

The Unmourned - this is a great fiction based on the Parramatta Female Factory by our patrons Tom and Meg Keneally. It's part of a series and if you are still in holiday mode a great reading choice!



This book is described by the authors as "a comprehensive record of the convict women who came north from Sydney". They often arrived through the settlement at Newcastle but some travelled north as settlers with their families. once free. If your female convict went north there is a good chance she is recorded in this publication. It is a great reference.



A recommended Digital resource: <https://www.hawkesbury.net.au/claimaconvict/search.php>

This resource is developed by community members and has great lists concerning convicts and convict ships.

Of course you can find these resources at the Friends rooms including the PFFF Research Centre and Babette Smith Collection – where we can help you help yourself in your history and family history discovery, provide advice or offer a research service!

Save the Date - More details soon!



WORKSHOP 2 - THE HOME CURATOR

*Keeping your Family History Collection
Alive through eHive!*

WHEN: Friday 14th March 10am - 1pm
WHERE: Parramatta Female Factory
Workshop leader: Gay Hendriksen



You may have enjoyed the Workshop, *Home Curator Part 1*, which covered the basics of caring for your family history collections. We are now offering Part 2 which goes into more depth and gives you skills in cataloguing and sharing your family history collections, learning how to use the eHive collection management tool.

A GAMECHANGER!



The National Heritage Parramatta Female Factory and World Heritage value site is on the Map!

Take the Parramatta Light Rail!
Alight at **NGARA**
Factory Street, North Parramatta
(Ngara - in Dharug means LOOK - LISTEN - THINK)

*Look at the sandstone walls and wonder about the lives of the convict women incarcerated here! Listen for their voices of protest! Think about their resilience and survival after being forcibly removed from their country!
Think about the multi-histories of this extraordinary site!*



Postscript:

And it is ironic - no sooner has this National Heritage site with recognised World Heritage value, been opened to the public with transport access, it has been placed under threat. Once again, after such hard fought gains to save "Parramatta Heritage" such a unique landscape is threatened with overdevelopment (Ed).

Parramatta and District Historical Society

announces the Speaker for the

February 2025 Monthly Meeting

The Speaker on this occasion will be

Mike Carlton

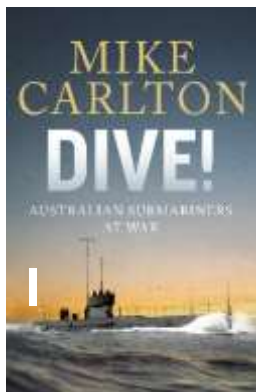


“Dive! Australian Submariners At War”

In a working life of more than fifty years, Mike Carlton was one of Australia's best-known media figures in radio, television and newspapers. Beginning as a cadet journalist at the ABC, he became a war correspondent in Vietnam. He also reported for the ABC from Jakarta, London, New York and major Asian capitals. In television, he worked on the ABC's groundbreaking *This Day Tonight* current affairs program in the 1970s and for Nine Network News and *A Current Affair*. He was also prominent on radio at stations 2UE, 2GB and in Britain.

He is the author of several books on naval history, such as "Cruiser: the life and loss of HMAS Perth and her crew", "First Victory", and "The Scrap Iron Flotilla", just to name a few.

Mike Carlton will be speaking about his latest book "Dive! Australian Submariners at War" which tells the story of the extraordinary deeds done by Australian Submariners in the First and Second World Wars and, more recently, the Cold War.



Submariners are a special breed. Not for them a life on the ocean wave, the fresh air and sunshine of other naval sailors. With stealth and daring they go deep and dark, alone and unseen, in often dangerous waters. They sometimes call themselves the Silent Service, with good reason.

TIME and DATE: 7.30 pm Monday 17 February 2025

**VENUE: Burnside Gardens Community Centre
3 Blackwood Place, Oatlands**

The presentation is free and will be followed by supper.

Enquiries Jeff Allen at jallen6@bigpond.net.au or 0414 996 497

Visitors Very Welcome

CONGRATULATIONS KERIMA-GAE TOPP!

Kerima-Gae Topp, former PFFF Treasurer is now enjoying her new involvement with PFFF as a tour guide. As the owner of her own tour company, she is used to guiding but really loves her volunteer role at PFFF sharing the stories of the women and the Factory with groups of people that had no previous idea that the Female Factory even existed, to those who had descendants incarcerated within its walls.

Kerima-Gae is also a DJ on a local community radio station, Alive 90.5FM, based at Baulkham Hills, and for over 30 years she has been presenting her rock and roll show called 'Juke Box Jive' on a Friday night from 9pm till midnight. For the last two years the radio station has given awards for 'best shows' at their Christmas Party and this year 'Juke Box Jive' was nominated for an award with two other shows that both have very strong listener numbers. ...and the winner ...Kerima-Gae's 'Juke Box Jive'!



As 'Juke Box Jive' is a request show where listeners can ring in or send a text to request a song, Kerima-Gae needs a helper to answer the phones. For many years Kerima-Gae's mother, the late Norma Topp, attended to that duty. These days Kerima-Gae's partner, John Brock, fulfils that role. Listeners to 'Juke Box Jive' are not only local but are located throughout Australia and with podcasting now available, her listeners in the USA can listen to the show at a time that suits them, rather than having to tune in at 5am local time, as some used to.

Kerima-Gae also presents the 'Monday Drive' shift from 4pm till 6pm, and whenever there is an event happening at the Female Factory, she is more than willing to promote it over the air.



Check out *the Australian Geographic* January/February 2025 edition for a great article on the Parramatta Female Factory women! (Ed).



**Female
Convicts**
of the
Hunter Valley
Seminar

Sunday 2nd March 2025

'The Place'
Charlestown Square

With free all-day undercover parking

Attend in person or via Zoom
(Sessions will be recorded)

Experienced and knowledgeable presenters including
Gay Hendriksen – Parramatta Female Factory
Jan Richards AM – Cascades Female Factory, Hobart
Andrew Redfern – SAG & Legacy Webinars
Dr Jude Conway – Newcastle Family History Society
Karen Smith – Newcastle Family History Society
Mel Woodford – NSW/ACT Association; NFHS

Displays, music, raffles, lucky door prizes, trade tables
Wonderful opportunities to meet and chat with others
Delicious homemade food

Why not join us for the day?
In person \$40
Via Zoom \$20
<https://www.trybooking.com/CYQVO>



REGULAR & BESPOKE SITE TOURS - BY APPOINTMENT. CONTACT: TOUR COORDINATOR parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com
 MONTHLY COMMITTEE MEETINGS 11AM.
 BI-MONTHLY GUEST SPEAKER 1:00PM. FOLLOWED BY AFTERNOON TEA. GENERAL MEETINGS 2:15PM.
 PFFF RESEARCH CENTRE IS OPEN 9am every Friday. Research assistance by appointment.

2025	PFFF MEETINGS - EVENTS &	ANNIVERSARIES
January	Newsletter 17th Committee Meeting	
February	Committee Meeting Friday 21st Guest Speaker General Meeting	1st Feb. St Brigid's Day - 204 th Anniversary of the occupation of the <i>new</i> Factory 1821 Riots: 3.2.1831; 24.2.1843
March	Saturday 8th March - IWD event Newsletter 21st Committee Meeting <u>Workshop: March 14th The Home Curator Part2 - Gay Hendriksen</u>	Riot: 7.3.1833 Sat. 8th March - International Women's Day (IWD)
April	Committee Meeting *Friday 11th Guest Speaker - ANTHF Event General Meeting <u>Saturday 12th April - Members' Morning Tea</u>	Australian (National Trust) Heritage Festival Fri. 18th April - Sun 18th May Presentation - 'Writer in Residence' Award (Easter 18th - 26th April)
May	Newsletter 16th Committee Meeting <u>Open Day - 18th May - National Trust Heritage Festival TBC</u> <u>Workshop May 9th - Workshop - Colonial Craft - Straw Plaiting with Lyn Watkins.</u>	DPHI Open Day/NT Heritage Festival Event Sun.18th May at Factory site. TBC
June	Friday 20th Committee Meeting Guest Speaker General Meeting <u>Members' Morning Tea TBC</u>	15th June - Maitland FH Conference AGM PREPARATION
July	Newsletter 18th Committee Meeting <u>Open Day - Macquarie Anniversary Fri 11th July</u> <u>Workshop July 11th - Usinf AI as a Research Tool - Andrew Redfern</u>	Wed. July 9th 207th Anniversary - Gov. Macquarie laid the foundation stone for the <i>new</i> Factory. History Week (16 th - 24 th August)
August	Friday 15th Committee Meeting AGM	NSW & ACT Assoc. of Family History Soc. Annual Conference TBC
September	Newsletter 19th Committee Meeting <u>Saturday 12th - DNA TBC</u> <u>Member's Morning Tea TBC</u>	Riots: 27.10.1827; 11.10.36
October	Friday 17th Committee Meeting Guest Speaker General Meeting Sat 25th RIOT DAY - 198th Anniversary Event The Annual Thomas Keneally Lecture	'Writer in Residence' Presentation Highly Commended & Student Prize 17th 'Writer in Residence' Winner Presentation Sat 25th Riot: 29.11.1831 Parramatta Foundation Day Festival TBC
November	Newsletter 21st Committee Meeting <u>Friday 14th Workshop - Ancestry TBC</u>	
December	Friday 12th Committee Meeting General Meeting	*(2nd Friday) PFFF Christmas Afternoon Tea