



PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS INC.
NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO: 62 AUTUMN EDITION
MARCH - APRIL 2025



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PFFF website: [parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au](https://www.parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pffriends/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/parramattafemalefactoryfriends/>

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

Next Meeting: Friday 11th April 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 Autumn edition of the PFFF Newsletter. The last two months have been very busy ones.

We had our first Speaker Program of the year with Gary Carter speaking about Parramatta 'firsts', which also gave a great context for the lives of the Female Factory women. We then hosted a most successful International Women's Day with a morning tea, tours and a talk by Ronda Gaffey, giving the audience great insights into the lives of the Female Factory Women through their words and stories.



The Friends developed and presented a submission regarding the NSW State Government North Parramatta Rezoning Plan proposal. Our advocacy was detailed but included: considered development with rezoning parameters that no building exceeds four storeys, a greenspace corridor directly north of the Female Factory and north and east of the Parramatta Female Factory & Institutions National Heritage listing with no new buildings and no rezoning determination until the buffer zone is determined, one that should not be less than the riparian corridor.

Our next big event participation will be the National Trust Heritage Festival so keep an eye out for the call out for volunteers and the activities for the day.

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 (\$3,000), Highly Commended (\$1500) and Student (\$500) which for this year will be a 'Writers in Residence' Program. Applications close on Thursday 8th May 2025.

We continue to contribute to the survival and celebration of the wonderful Parramatta Female Factory.

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

Gay Hendriksen
President PFFF



A Full House! PFFF Guest Speaker & General Meeting - February 2025.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

Writers' Award Program

An Invitation



The Parramatta Female Factory Friends Inc. is offering a rare and exciting, *Writers in Residence* Program in 2025. This is in acknowledgement of the World Heritage value of the Parramatta Female Factory, the earliest and most intact female convict site in Australia. Our organization is looking for a creative response to the significance of the site and social history of the Parramatta Female Factory, associated histories and its contribution to the Australian Identity. The categories are:

1. Writer in Residence Award \$3,000
2. Highly Commended Award \$1,500
3. Student Writing Award \$500

BACKGROUND

The successful applicants will be elected by an expert panel, according to specific criteria: historic subject relevance, originality, excellence, authenticity.

The Award recipients will have access to the Parramatta Female Factory Friends Research Centre by arrangement on Fridays. Access will include:

- our hard copy collection (general book collection and rare books)
- our digital resources and onsite access to our research subscriptions
- six months of public programs free (includes talks, workshops, tours) and
- free Parramatta Female Factory Friends membership for one year.

From research to final product will be six months, culminating in a presentation at our Annual *It's a Riot Day* event commemoration or at other events later in the year and presenting a written publishable result.

To apply, send the completed *Creative Initiatives Form** to the Parramatta Female Factory Friends at parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com

For more information contact Gay Hendriksen, Research Coordinator via the above email or 0447189137.



*see Application Form - separate attachment.

Applications close COB, Thursday 8th May 2025.



A Warm Welcome to Sharyn Byrne who recently joined the PFFF Committee and has taken on the roles of Public Officer and Treasurer.

Sharyn is a woman with many passions - a passion for education, gender equality, women's rights, history, art, overseas travel and the surf.

Consequently, Sharyn teaches Business Services for TAFE, specialising in Leadership & Management & WHS, mentors survivors of domestic violence, frequents museums and the beach ever beckons.

A warm welcome to new members: Robert Waddell, Mary Boyle, Margaret Smith, Patricia Martin, Adrienne Carr, Phil Bradley, Matthew Rutkin, Joan Taylor, Catherine Anne Neasey, Angela Gibson, Maria Prats, Vaughan Roles, John Dolan, Julia Green, Jenna Ryan, Lynette Sealie, Dee Clarke, Helen Rose, Denise Martel, Peter Homan, Pauline Plowright and Noelene Coulton.

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- **Dates for your Diary:** Next General Meeting and Afternoon Tea - Guest Speaker: **Dr. Mark Dunn**, author - *The Convict Valley*: **1pm Friday 11th April**, General Meeting at **2:15pm**.
 - **Celebrating the theme, 'Unearthed'**, The National Trust Heritage Festival 2025, **begins Friday 18th April and runs until Sunday 18th May**. There are so many talks, and tours on offer this year - so checkout the website and follow the link *Heritage Festival* : <https://nationaltrust.org.au> Heritage Festival Day at the Factory is **Saturday 17th May** - more details soon!

HISTORY CORNER - A RARE PRIVILEGE

Heidi Garmonsway



Recently I had the opportunity to go into the Matron's Quarters at the Female Factory - it was here that Ann Gordon lived with her family (1827-1836) while serving as Factory Matron.

Ann was my 4x great grandmother and I am sure she would not have believed that one of her descendants would be standing there, gazing out of the same window she did, 198 years ago.

It was a rather special moment for me to be there, to remember and acknowledge her.



Photographs: From top left - Heidi Garmonsway; Matron's Quarters - courtesy Gay Hendriksen.

The convict ship *Mariner* arrived in Sydney Cove on 10th July 1825. The women were all ages with the most common crime being 'theft' - theft of clothing and fabric included wearing apparel, shirts, linen, calico and a handkerchief. There was one unusual crime recorded in the Ships' Indent.

Margaret Quinn, a washerwoman and milkmaid, was single and aged 26 on arrival - she was a native of County Down and a Catholic. Margaret was tried in Dublin and her crime was reported in the Dublin Morning Register 7 January 1825:

Thursday 6th. Margaret Quinn pleaded guilty to the charge of stealing Bibles, linen and other articles from several Churches. She was cautioned against putting her plea, but she persisted, saying, that she would not tell a lie, and then began to cry. Mr. Justice Moore observed that it was a strange kind of morality to fear telling a lie and yet rob a church...Guilty.

Mary Dunlevie was charged with receiving part of the stolen goods from Margaret which she 'pledged to a pawn-broker in Meath Street'. Both women were transported for seven years for the crime of 'sacrilege'.

For some of the *Mariner* women, life after transportation was a challenge. One woman, *Ann Lang* never settled. She was in and out of gaol, serving prison time for numerous Colonial offences from the time of her arrival until her untimely death in 1835. Ann was born in 1798 in Kilkenny, Ireland and a nursemaid by occupation. She was tried in Dublin City 28 September 1824, charged with 'felony - money' and sentenced for 'Life'.

No.	Name	Trade	Place	Destination
1	Thomas Mee Lifford	Black	Black	Black
2	Ann Lang	Nursemaid	Dublin	Life

Perhaps for Ann, with a life sentence, there was nothing to lose and she reacted accordingly. There is also reason to believe that Ann may have suffered a mental illness - in the ship's indent she is described as 'deranged'...

No.	Name	Trade	Place	Destination
1	Thomas Mee Lifford	Black	Black	Black
2	Ann Lang	Nursemaid	Dublin	Life

Shortly after arrival, Ann was charged with theft, having stolen from her mistress while on assignment and was sentenced to Port Macquarie Penal Settlement (18th January 1826) to serve three years.

JANUARY 17....Ann Lang, prisoner of the crews, charged with having stolen from the mistress to whom she was an assigned servant, several articles of wearing apparel and other goods, from a chest, and which she had concealed under a sofa in another room. It certainly appeared that her mistress had given her a promise that, if the prisoner would inform her where she had secreted the articles, so that they might be recovered, she would forbear any prosecution, but as there were several other articles of value stolen at the same time, and not forthcoming, and the case upon the whole presenting some aggravated features, the Bench directed the prisoner to be removed to a penal settlement for 3 years.

Sydney Gazette & NSW Advertiser (1803 - 1842) Police - 26th Jan.1826 p.3

At the time of the 1828 Census, Ann was still at Port Macquarie. In March 1829, she was returned to first class at the Parramatta Factory.



Ann, as with so many of the convict women, sought escape from the 'factory system' through marriage. Ann applied to marry Charles Jackson in Sydney (24th October 1830) however the marriage did not go ahead - Ann was already married to a publican in Dublin.

On 30th October 1830, Ann received her second Colonial sentence for her part in the 'mutiny' at the Factory. Ann was tried at the Parramatta General Sessions for 'mutinous and turbulent conduct in the factory and being the ringleader of the 3rd class who attempted to break out'.



Port Macquarie c1820

Once again Ann was sentenced to three years at a Penal Settlement - she was intended for Moreton Bay but was sent to Port Macquarie where she remained for the next three years.

We understand that Ann Lang, one of the female convicts transported for heading an insurrection in our Factory of 800 idle women, and who was nick-named "Funny-ey'd Anne" by the jocose officers at Port Macquarie, from the Commandant downwards (see Gilbert Smith's statements, for publishing which we were imprisoned three months) is to receive a pardon on the petition of the said officers!

1. Sydney Monitor Wed 16th Feb 1831

*Colonial Secretary's Office
Sydney 10 December 1830*

*In returning to you the warrant
of Committal for the first two of the women
named in the margin, I am directed by
Minister to request the Governor to inform you
that they are to be transported to Moreton
Bay, and to request therefore that together
with the third whose destination has been*

Whilst at Port Macquarie, a newspaper report reveals Ann's vulnerability. She was the butt of jokes with guards cruelly mocking her because of her appearance and playing with her emotions¹. Ann was returned to first class at Parramatta in August 1833 - she had been in the Colony for eight years and had spent most of this time 'under punishment'.

For the next two years, Ann was assigned, only to be apprehended as a runaway on at least three occasions - in March 1834, she was serving three months in 3rd Class at the Factory once again.

Ann passed away on 24th August 1835 in the Parramatta Hospital - she was buried in 'St. John's graveyard, Parramatta'. She was aged 37.

References:

Mathews, Anne and Matthews Beth, *Our Girls* - unpublished work sourced from original papers, SRNSW;
Convict Margaret Quinn - Convict Records, https://convictrecords_margaretquinn
Convict Mary Dunlevie - Convict Records, https://convictrecords_marydunlevie
Ancestry online;
Biographical Database Australia (BDA) online;
Harry Gentle Resource Centre, <https://harrygentle.griffith.edu.au/life-stories/ann-lang/>
Additional research; John Gaffey; Ronda Gaffey;
Harrison, Jennifer, *Shackled, Female Convicts at Moreton Bay 1826-1839* Melbourne: Anchor Books, 2026.

PFFF RESEARCH CENTRE MUSTER

Gay Hendriksen Research Coordinator

Parramatta Female Factory Friends Research Centre & Babette Smith Collection

The Factory Friends Research Centre is going from strength to strength. Our recent call out for more volunteers received a great response and will mean we can continue to develop our resources and help visitors to connect to the fabulous history that surrounds us at the Female Factory.

A thank you to a descendant of Constance Couronne/La Sablonaire/Trudgett, Gail Irla, for her kind donations of two books: *Gum Flat - The Story of the Trudgetts* and *Descendants of Robert and Constance Trudgett*. We are always grateful for stories and objects directly related to the Female Factory women.

We have recently developed a research guide and image resource for the volunteers and had a successful training day to ensure our research team can provide the best experience for those discovering more about the history of the Female Factory or their own family histories.

Also, we hosted a workshop recently on a great family history collection tool, 'eHive' which helps ensure the longevity and connection to provenance. For more information on it check out the eHive website: <https://ehive.com/>

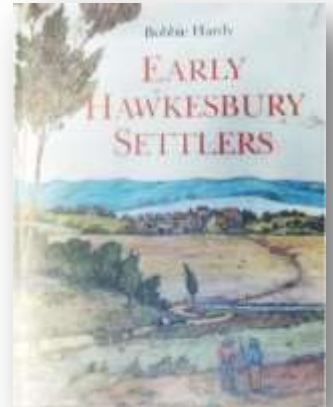
Our Factory women's list continues to grow so please keep those names and stories coming in. Give these directly to us at the Research Centre or email to: parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com and put 'Research Centre' in the subject field. That way we can ensure they are shared with all Australians.

Good reads and online history adventures recommended this time are:

Books: *The Early Hawkesbury Settlers* by Bobby Hardy and Ian Marr covers pioneers and pioneering life and family histories of the Hawkesbury. The author pays particular attention to the families of the settlers, their marriages and children which makes the book invaluable to genealogists.

Digital resource: Guide to Researching Your Convict Ancestors which among other things includes NSW convict women and convict tales: <https://perthdps.com/convicts/census.html>

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!



The PFFF Research Team.
Above: Sharyn assisting on IWD.



Middle right: Lyn Watkins,
Phillipa Palmer, Margo Carter, Leslie Richmond, Matt Rutkin, Phillipa Crosbie and Gay Hendriksen.
Far right: PFFF member Mel at the 'wee peggy' spinning wheel on IWD.



GUEST SPEAKER Program - Gary Carter Topic: 'Parramatta - First Steps'

It was a 'packed house' in the PFFF Member's Room for the talk Gary gave in February!

Gary, a well-known Parramatta raconteur, author and social historian, traced the growth of the second mainland settlement of Parramatta, highlighting the many fascinating 'firsts' he has found in his research.

Among some surprising facts - Parramatta had the first zoo, the first still, the first French restaurant (though snails and frogs were not mentioned on the menu) and it was the site of the first indoor 'dunny' (or was it two?). Apparently Governor Macquarie and Mrs. Macquarie were fortunate to have such a facility at Government House - a first for Parramatta!

Thank you Gary for sharing your knowledge and your research!



For further reading: Gary has written a book entitled, *The Colonial Nation's First Big Steps Parramatta the Cradle City's List of One Hundred Firsts* - pub. 2025 - copies are available at the PFFF Rooms. Gary is on the PFFF Committee - he is WHS Officer, Tour Guide, Researcher, a Parramatta tragic and descendant of a number of Factory women.



SATURDAY 8TH MARCH INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY - Guest Speaker, Ronda Gaffey

'BANISHED BEYOND THE SEAS' -
THE IMPACT OF TRANSPORTATION
ON THE LIVES OF THE CONVICT WOMEN

Congratulations to everyone for making this commemoration such a memorable one - there was a full house to hear our guest speaker, Ronda Gaffey who stepped in at the last moment to deliver this IWD presentation.

Ronda is a born storyteller with a passion for convict women's history, digging deep into their lives and searching beyond those names on a list. In her talk, Ronda drew on selected texts including contemporary accounts, rare letters and official records with readings, demonstrating the loss and despair experienced by the women transported, as well as enacting scenes of hope drawn from her family history research.



Thank you Ronda for such an informative and inspiring talk and in bringing the experiences of the convict women alive.

Lyn Watkins (PFFF Speaker's Program coordinator)

Photograph - courtesy Kylie Adams-Collier

Currently Ronda serves on the Parramatta Female Factory Friends Committee fulfilling the role of Newsletter editor, Publicity Officer and Tour Guide. She is also descended from two Factory women. Ronda is a recipient of the City of Parramatta Senior Citizen of the Year Award, 2024 for services to history and heritage.

ADVOCACY CORNER - Out & About

Ronda Gaffey

On Sunday 16th February, PFFF Committee and members heeded the call, attending a rally to “press pause” on the Proposed Rezoning Plans for the Cumberland Hospital Precinct (excluding the Heritage Precinct).

The gathering was organised by local Federal member Dr. Andrew Charlton. Speakers included Julie Owens (former Federal Parramatta MP and FF/heritage stalwart), Suzette Meade (National Trust), PFFF’s Kevin Dodds and Gary Carter.

This was an opportunity to network and to publicise the very real threat overdevelopment poses to this unique heritage site. The gathering was held near the Green (formerly the Oval) and heritage Pavilion, an area currently devoid of high rise - it was alarming to all to contemplate this highly significant historic and cultural landscape being destroyed in the future.

Thank you to the PFFF members who supported this event and to the Committee who ‘manned’ the publicity stall. The concern for this historic site was overwhelming.



PHP PROJECT - BANNER LAUNCH Wednesday 12th March at Hambledon Cottage



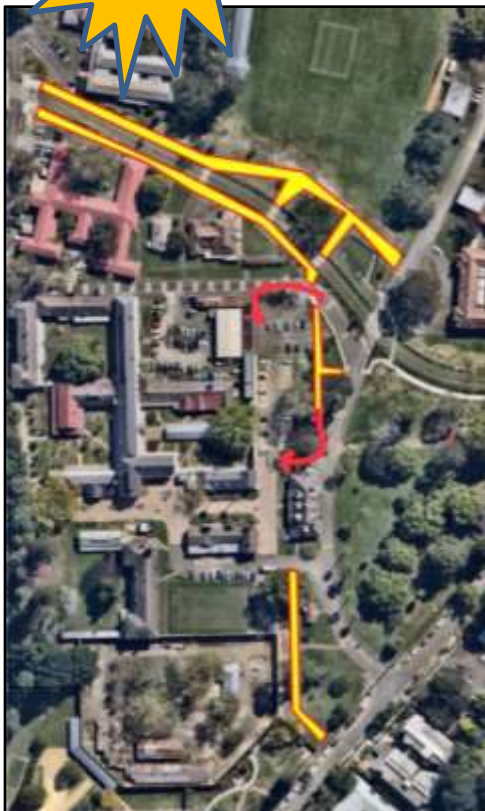
Parramatta Heritage Partners (PHP) with Chair, Ken Smith OAM, recently launched their Heritage Banner Project, funded by a COP Grant. The banners are bright and colourful and will serve to identify and promote heritage sites across the Parramatta LGA. An accompanying Brochure was also launched.

Thanks go to Cheryl Bates OAM (President, NT Parramatta) who spear-headed this initiative and to Les Fenech (President, Parramatta & District Historical Society) for his creative expertise. Thanks also to Deputy Mayor Councillor Cameron MacLean, Councillors Dr. Patricia Prociw, Sameer Pandey and Kelly Darley for their support.



STOP PRESS!

Gary Carter



Map indicating new signage and signs from Ngara LR, Factory, Fennell and O'Connell Street.
Below left: The Old Fig Tree & Fountain ('Asylum' period 'relics'.)



Photographs - courtesy Gary Carter.

A Good News Story!

New Female Factory street signs are up at five locations, leading to the National Heritage & Institutions Precinct making it much easier for visitors to find the Female Factory site, the PFFF Rooms and the tour location. We can thank City of Parramatta Councillor Sameer Pandey and Councillor Kelly Darley, for pushing this issue through.

Thanks also to Donna Davis MP who has indicated that work is now underway and that the path links for disability access are in the current Parramatta North plan. There will be a raised walkway around the fountain and above the roots of the old fig tree, to keep the heritage route the same. Any trip hazards or speed humps will be removed. The cabling covers adjacent the Liberty Vernon building which operate the boom gates to the Hub/Health car park, will be removed also. This will allow wheelchair access onto the site.

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
April	Committee Meeting Friday 11th Guest Speaker - Dr. Mark Dunn General Meeting	
May	Newsletter 16th Committee Meeting <u>Open Day - 17th May - National Trust Heritage Festival</u> <u>Workshop May 9th - Colonial Craft - 'Braiding' with Lyn Watkins</u>	Australian (National Trust) Heritage Festival Fri. 18th April - Sun 18th May (Easter 18th - 26th April).
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 - Using AI As a Research Tool</u> Andrew Redfern	Wed. July 9th 207th Anniversary - Gov. Macquarie laid the foundation stone for the <i>new</i> Factory.
August	Friday 15th Committee Meeting AGM	History Week (16th - 24th August)
September	Newsletter 19th Committee Meeting <u>Saturday 12th - Workshop - DNA TBC</u> <u>Member's Morning Tea TBC</u>	NSW & ACT Assoc. of Family History Soc. Annual Conference TBC
October	Friday 17th Committee Meeting Guest Speaker General Meeting Sat 25th RIOT DAY - 198th Anniversary Event The Annual Thomas Keneally Lecture	Riots: 27.10.1827; 11.10.36
November	Newsletter 21st Committee Meeting <u>Friday 14th Workshop - DNA TBC</u>	Riot: 29.11.1831 Parramatta Foundation Day Festival TBC
December	Friday 12th Committee Meeting General Meeting	(2nd Friday) PFFF Christmas Afternoon Tea