



PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS INC. NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO: 59 SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2024



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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: Vacant **General Secretary/Tour Coordinator:** Kevin Dodds

Committee: Gary Carter, **Site Watch:** Judith Dunn OAM, **Editor/Publicity Officer:**

Ronda Gaffey, **Membership Secretary:** Lorraine Henshaw

Minutes Secretary/Guest Speaker Co-Coordinator: Lyn Watkins

Next Meeting: GUEST SPEAKER: **Friday 18th October 2024 at 1pm**

followed by afternoon tea at 2pm. General Meeting at 2.15pm

Venue: PFFF Rooms, 5 Fleet Street, North Parramatta.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Factory Friends,

Welcome to our spring edition of the Newsletter. The blossoms are certainly heralding the new life that is this season.

The first news is the result of our AGM, an introduction to our new Committee and a farewell to two valued members. The new Parramatta Female Factory Friends Committee consists of familiar and new faces. We welcome Gary Carter – Ordinary Member, and returning members Kevin Dodds - General Secretary, Judith Dunn - Ordinary Member, Ronda Gaffey - Ordinary Member, Lorraine Henshaw -Membership Secretary, Lyn Watkins - Minute Secretary, Frank Williams - Vice President and me as President.

Two valued Committee members chose not to stand again. Kerima-Gae Topp has stepped down as Treasurer and Janice Ruse-Huntington as Ordinary Member. Both have been wonderful Committee members and have made great contributions over the many years they have been involved as Committee. You will, however, see both at various functions in the future and involved in different activities. Kerima-Gae is helping out with our tour program and Janice is still part of our research team.

We are currently seeking a new treasurer so if you think you can help, please email parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com

In the area of advocacy, we are remaining vigilant concerning the current threat to the buffer zone for the Factory and advocating for best practice management and future accommodation for our group.

Our social members' morning teas have proved popular. The next one is Saturday, September 21st at 10am.

Planning for our next big event, Riot Day, is shaping up well and will include the official opening of the Parramatta Female Factory Friends Research Centre and Babette Smith Collection. Dr. Andrew Charlton MP, Tom Keneally AO and Meg Keneally will be speaking and our Annual Thomas Keneally Lecture guest speaker will be Associate Professor Hamish Maxwell Stewart. Our regular character vignettes, tours and tearoom will also be included on the day. As usual we will need assistance with volunteers, so if you are interested please email us.

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

Gay Hendriksen

President PFFF



FACTORY UNDER THREAT! It was a cold morning call-out for a Media event at the Factory! Thank you to everyone for heeding the call!
Photography: RG.

A warm PFFF welcome to new members: Thomas Walker and Michelle Fitzgerald.

NOTICEBOARD - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

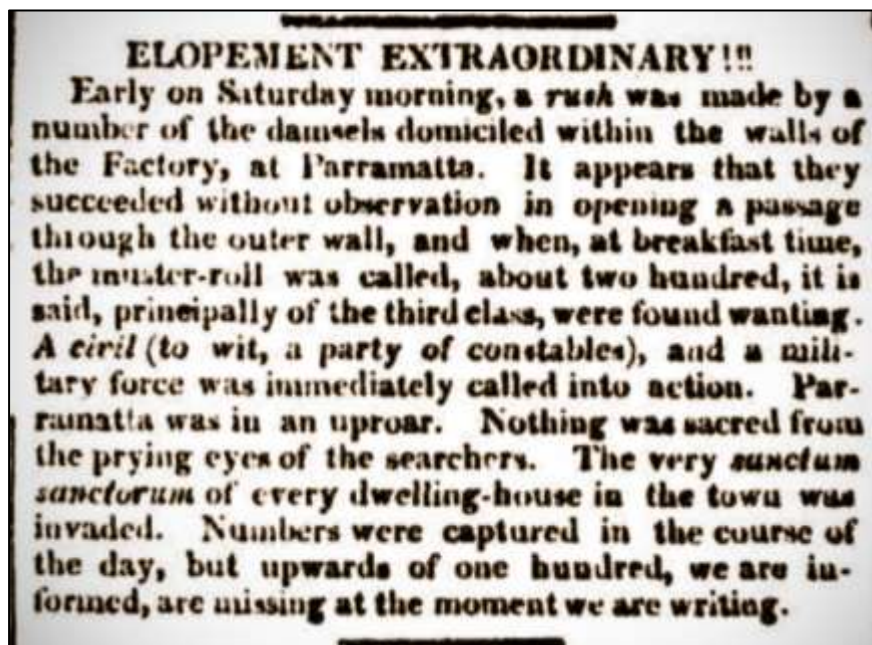
- **MEMBERS' ONLY MORNING TEA - PFFF ROOMS - 10am Saturday 21st September - RSVP 'Lorraine' - parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com**
- **STRAW PLAITING WORKSHOP** with crafter and Factory women's descendant, Lyn Watkins - **Saturday 28th September** (see flyer, page 10).
- **NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY October 18th 2024** at 1pm followed by afternoon tea - General Meeting at 2.15pm. **GUEST SPEAKER - BUNYIP Music** 🎵 - *History Told Through Song* with Alan Foster.
- **IT'S A RIOT 2024 - ANNUAL RIOT DAY** - 197th Anniversary of the October 1827 riot! **Friday 25th October 2024.** EVENTBRITE BOOKINGS for tours and the Annual Thomas Keneally Lecture will open **1st October** - members will be notified with details in late September.
- **ROYAL AUSTRALIA HISTORY SOCIETY (RAHS) Conference - Windows into Local History, 26th - 27th October** - Campbelltown Catholic Club - for details: www.rahs.org.au/2024-rahs-conference
- **PARRAMATTA FOUNDATION DAY FESTIVAL - Saturday 2nd November 2024** - details soon.
- **FINAL REMINDER** - PFFF Annual fees (\$20) are due on **July 1st** each year - thank you for your ongoing support. Parramatta Female Factory Friends - BSB: 633 000 ACC: 151 276 763. Please add your name and 'Membership' to the EFT **or** post cheque to PO Box 1358, Parramatta 2141 **or** pay at our Rooms.



HISTORY CORNER - 1824 - IT'S A RIOT!

Ronda Gaffey

On Saturday 27th October, a drama was about to unfold at the Parramatta Female Factory when a number of women were missing from the morning muster. What happened that day was widely reported in the Colonial newspapers and as with much to do with the Parramatta Female Factory, many articles were written to sensationalise and to entertain. The 'correspondent' from the Sydney Gazette and NSW Advertiser was in 'his' element as the following article demonstrates:



The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser (1803 - 1842), 29th October, 1827, Trove online.

We can only wonder what the women were feeling that morning - they were determined, they were fearless and they were making their voices heard and Parramatta Town was in an uproar!

The very sanctum sanctorum of every dwelling-house in the town was invaded...

In our research into the early deaths of Factory women, we have found women who died in, or shortly after childbirth and children who died within days or weeks of their birth; many women’s deaths are unexplained while there are a few which hint at what may have been the cause. These are some of the stories of those women whose lives were ‘cut short’.

Cecilia (aka Celia) Burke was born about 1806 in Galway, Ireland; she was convicted in Roscommon in August 1828, her offence was *stealing clothes*. She was sentenced to transportation for seven years.

Cecilia embarked the ship *Edward (1)* which departed Cork Harbour on 1st January 1829. The ship carried 177 female prisoners; three deaths occurred on the 115 day voyage; the ship arrived in NSW on 26th April 1829.

In the ship’s Muster, Cecilia Burke is described as single with one child, reads and is a nurse girl. She was 5ft, 1¼”, with a ruddy, freckled complexion, brown hair and hazel eyes; a small scar between eyes; to be assigned to I. Moss George St. Sydney.¹ There is no evidence that her child embarked with her.

Sadly, within a year of arrival, records relating to the Female Factory show: *Celia Burke per Edward - young woman convict deceased in Female Factory, effects sold at public auction 7th November 1829.*² Cecilia Burke had been in the Colony seven months. Her death is recorded in the Burial Register of St. John’s Parramatta (entry 250) - the Rev. Marsden was the officiating minister. She was 23 years of age. The cause of death is unknown.

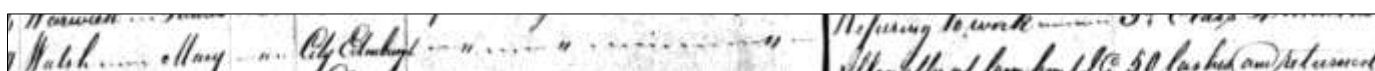


In scrolling down the Register from Cecilia Burke, entries 252 and 253 are for **Judith Walsh and Mary Walsh**. They embarked the convict ship *City of Edinburgh* in 1828 and arrived in Sydney on 26th April 1829. Their profiles are very different and it is likely they are unrelated, however their stories are intriguing.

Judith Walsh was from Galway, Ireland. She was aged 28, a catholic, could read and write; her occupation was a farm servant and dairy maid; she was single with one child - her sentence was seven years’ transportation for *street robbery*.⁴ There is no record of a child embarking with her.

Mary Walsh aged 17 was convicted in Kilkenny, Ireland; she received a sentence of seven years’ transportation for *vagrancy*. There is limited information other than mention that she was 5ft. 1¾” with a fresh complexion and brown eyes.⁵

Just prior to their deaths, both women had been sentenced to serve time in 3rd Class at the Factory for Colonial offences - Judith had been sentenced for three months for *drunkenness and stealing* at the General Sessions, Sydney on 19th October 1829. Mary was sentenced to four months in 3rd Class for *refusing to work*.⁶



One month later, they were both deceased at the Factory.⁷ They died within days of each other - Judith died on 16th November 1829 and Mary died on 18th November 1829.³ Judith was 29 years of age and Mary was 20 - had they contracted a fever or other contagion in the Factory?

References:

¹BDA online - entry for Cecilia Burke; ²Colonial Secretary’s Correspondence - 31/3003, SRNSW; ³Parish Register, St. John’s, Parramatta -Burial entry for Cecilia Burke; ⁴BDA online - entry for Judith Walsh; ⁵Transcripts: Warrants - Lord Lt. of Ireland 1828 City of Edinburgh NSW Australia Convict Indents 1788-1832 Entry: No: 70; ⁶New South Wales, Australia; Gaol Entrance Books; entries for Judith Walsh and Mary Walsh; SRNSW; ⁷Parish Register, St. John’s, Parramatta, Burial entries for Judith Walsh and Mary Walsh.

John H. H. H.	Paranormal	W. H. H.	24/4	City of London	General	London
John H. H.	Paranormal	W. H. H.	24/4	City of London	General	London

NSW, Settler & Convict List 1828-1832 showing the death of two Factory women, Judith Walsh and Mary Walsh.

Ann Byrne was born about 1790 in Newry, Ireland. She was convicted in Dublin 28th October 1828, her offence was *stealing clothes*; she was sentenced to transportation for seven years, with two previous convictions.

In the ship's Muster, Ann Byrne is described as age 40, reads, catholic, widow with one child, a cook and does all work. She was 4ft. 10", with a ruddy, freckled complexion, brown to grey hair and grey eyes; a large raised mole outside left arm above joint. Remarks: infirm and helpless.⁸ The records relating to the Female Factory show Ann Byrne per *Asia*, died in the Factory and her effects sold at public auction.⁹

Ann Byrne Perreanatha G. H. H. Morgan Asia 7
No. 247

A life truly 'cut short' is that of **Ann Huxtable**. Ann was born about 1822 in Barnstable, England. She was convicted at the Devon Quarter Sessions 25th February 1840; her offence was *stealing wearing apparel*. She was sentenced to transportation for seven years with a previous conviction of one month.

In the ship's Muster, Ann Huxtable is described as aged 18, reads, protestant, single, and a kitchen maid. She was 4ft. 11½", with a ruddy and freckled complexion, brown hair and chestnut eyes; nose short and broad, a small mole on left cheek, another on left side of neck; the mark of a boil on back of left hand.¹⁰

⁸BDA entries for Ann Byrne - BDA online; ⁹ Ann Byrne - Colonial Secretary's Correspondence no. 31/3003, 1831; SRNSW;

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Records relating to the Female Factory show Ann Huxtable, age 20 died on 4th May 1841. A child, James Huxtable age 3 weeks old, died ten days later on 14th May. Researchers assume this is Ann's newborn son. It is also assumed that Ann died following childbirth. Both deaths are registered at St. Johns Parramatta.¹¹ Ann was young and there is no record of marriage - it would seem her pregnancy occurred shortly after arrival in the Colony. Her story is a tragic one.



Convict women transported to NSW survived the ravages of imprisonment and the potentially treacherous voyage to NSW, they served their time and moved on to a new life and yet there are those who died within the first few months or year or so of arrival. The reasons may well include, a pre-existing but undiagnosed illness or untreated condition; poor health due to physical deprivation and poor diet; childbirth, succumbing to common diseases, alcoholism or, the inability to cope.

Cecilia Burke, Judith Walsh and Ann Byrne all left a child in Britain and one can only wonder what became of them, if and how they survived. Through our research, the women and their children are remembered.

References:

¹¹ St. Johns Parramatta, Parish Register - Burial entry for Ann Huxtable; Ibid, Burial entry for James Huxtable; Mathews, Anne and Matthews, Beth, *Our Girls* - unpublished work sourced from original papers, SRNSW; Ancestry.com online; additional research; John Gaffey; Ronda Gaffey.

Postscript: It is interesting to note that from her research, the late Babette Smith estimated 15% of the 100 convict women arriving on the Princess Royal in 1831, were deceased within ten years of their arrival (reference: Babette Smith: A Cargo of Women, Susannah Watson and the women of the Princess Royal, 2nd edition 2008; Allen & Unwin, page 201).

RESEARCH CENTRE MUSTER Gay Hendriksen Research Coordinator Parramatta Female Factory Friends' Research Centre & Babette Smith Collection

Our Research Centre is in the final stages of preparation for the official opening on Riot Day. This is only possible through the great work of our research team who are working tirelessly to ensure this will be a great specialist Research Centre.

Our last Research Centre Workshop was *The Home Curator* which was well attended with participants coming from as far afield as Newcastle and Wollongong. There were some very special family history objects shared including a mid-20th century photograph album, Harbour Bridge opening memorabilia, letters, original 19th Century photographs, a christening gown and a passport that demonstrated world history events. There were also fascinating family history stories and connections, special family history objects or other special collections. All these objects have a better chance of survival with the information gathered at the workshop.

'The Home Curator'
Photography - courtesy
Gay Hendriksen



The next workshop will be on straw plaiting, one that I hope not to miss. Whether you want to learn to plait your very own bonnet or cabbage tree-type hat or that special handmade Christmas present, you will discover a particular Factory skill in this workshop. Thank you Lyn for offering this workshop again.

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 to: parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com and put 'Research Centre' in the subject field. That way we can ensure they are shared with all Australians.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Friends rooms including the PFFF Research Centre and Babette Smith Collection!



Parramatta Female Factory Research Centre & Babette Smith Collection

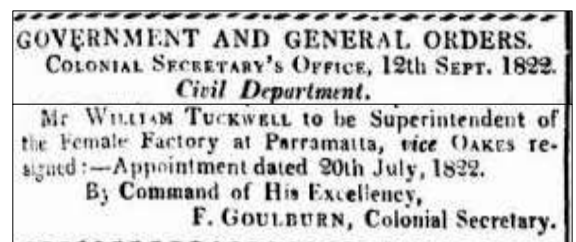
POSTSCRIPT: Thank you to Bruce Dite who recently submitted a paper to our Resource Centre - a covering note about his research is below. Gay H.

WILLIAM TUCKWELL AND THE PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY

Bruce Dite

I have prepared a paper on the interactions of **William Tuckwell and the Parramatta Female Factory** in his senior roles in the Factory during the period **1818 to 1837**. I have provided this paper to the Friends' group for its availability on its digital and vertical platforms so that any new information can be shared among the members.

1.



This paper was part of a comprehensive exercise by me to collect all the information that I could find and to write up in story-form, the life of Richard Tuckwell and Elizabeth Buckner. Their daughter Elizabeth (Weaver/s) was my wife's great-great-grandmother.

Richard Tuckwell and Elizabeth Buckner who arrived in the settlement on the convict transport the *Pitt* in 1792, were the parents of William Tuckwell. Richard was a Quarter-Master Sergeant in the NSW Corps and Elizabeth was a free passenger on the *Pitt* accompanying her convict husband Reuben Buckner.

In my research I found a substantial amount of information about William Tuckwell mainly through the one hundred letters or so in the Colonial Secretary's Records, in books and on websites like the Female Factory Friends and in the reports by Terry Kass in the archaeological excavation reports of Edward Higginbotham &

Associates Pty Ltd, dealing with the complex property transactions by William Tuckwell in Parramatta. I found that this information was fragmented in that I could gather bits of valuable information like dates of key events and stories about the Matrons of the Factory, Mrs. Fulloon and Mrs. Gordon. However, especially in the case of the Parramatta Female Factory, I found that there wasn't much detailed information readily available about William Tuckwell.

Certainly, areas like the development of the Factory, stories about the inmates and Matrons Mrs. Fulloon and Mrs. Gordon are very well covered. But, in the stories about the Factory, much less has been written about William Tuckwell even though the longevity of his employment at the Factory of nearly twenty years was much longer than Fulloon's or Gordon's.

I hope that the story in my paper, based on authenticated sources and which brings together the various threads of William's life, will give the reader a better understanding of what William Tuckwell was like as a person.

The story progresses through William's early years in the settlement; his employment in 1814 as a steward by Reverend Samuel Marsden; his appointment as clerk and assistant to the Superintendent of the Factory, Francis Oakes; his appointment as superintendent following Oakes' clashes with magistrate Dr. Douglass; William's time as superintendent; his difficult relationship with Colonial Secretary Goulburn; the appointment of Mrs. Fulloon as matron by Goulburn; William's termination as superintendent; the inevitable problems of demarcation of roles with the well-connected Mrs. Fulloon; the outcome of the complaint raised by William Tuckwell about Mrs. Fulloon and her son; William Tuckwell reprimanded by Governor Darling as being reprehensible; the riots when Mrs. Gordon was appointed as the matron; William's appointments as secretary and then storekeeper.

Most write-ups about William Tuckwell tend to stop at that point. Around this time, William Tuckwell was perceived as '*a man of authority around the town*'²; Annette Salt, in her book *These Outcast Women*, described William Tuckwell as '*ubiquitous*'.³ However, after William Tuckwell left the Factory around 1837, his fortunes crashed and he was financially wiped out.

It is difficult to say precisely what caused William's losses but most likely it started with obtaining a loan of £100 from the government after his termination as superintendent of the Factory, '*to enable me to enter into business*' and having to provide security for that loan. It is likely that he requested the loan of £100 to enable him to undertake several complex land transactions in Parramatta. In addition, William was granted 150 acres at Dural where he commenced a fruit growing business. He was also granted another 150 acres at Goulburn.

William appears to have been unable to repay the £100 loan to the government and he obtained five more loans probably from moneylenders at terms like five years for the loans and 20% interest.

William Tuckwell was unable to obtain the capital to maintain or to finalise the land transactions in Parramatta with the result that it is said that he lost his house. William sold his 150 acre farm at Dural and his 150 acre farm at Goulburn for relatively low prices.

William's financial difficulties coupled with the economic depression in the early 1840's, resulted in him being declared insolvent in 1844, leaving him with no landed property. He died in Dural in 1855. His wife Elizabeth was declared insolvent in 1855.

I am far from being a historian, I just like history. The readers of various websites may be very familiar with parts of this story about the early history of the Factory and the 'reigns' of Mrs. Fulloon and Mrs. Gordon. I may have made errors in the way I've described them but my main focus in the story has been the new information on William Tuckwell and I hope that you find this interesting.

References:

¹Sydney Gazette and NSW Advertiser (1803-1842) showing appointment of William Tuckwell 1822. Trove online;

²Terry Kass in *Higginbotham & Assoc Pty Ltd Report on the excavation of 50, 50A & 52 O'Connell and 6-12 Grose Street, North Parramatta*, p.5;

³Annette Salt, *These Outcast Women: the Parramatta Female Factory 1821-1848*, published 1984, Hale & Iremonger, Sydney, p.58

MEMBER'S CORNER

In this edition we have an article from a member which is also a wonderful serendipity! Thank you Nicolas for sharing your journey. (Ed.)

Nicolas Couronne writes: History often reveals itself in the most unexpected ways. Such was my experience when in December 2018, I stumbled upon a photograph that ignited a sense of recognition deep within me.

The face in the image bore striking physical resemblance to my family members, a remarkable connection that transcended time and space. To my astonishment I discovered that we also share the same surname and hail from the same southern region of Mauritius.

As I delved deeper into the story of Constance, a slave girl from Mauritius who was sent as a convict to NSW in 1834, I encountered narratives steeped in complexity. During my research journey, I tried to approach her story with a spirit of humility and respect. I do not claim to possess the definitive truth - but I am offering my version - a narrative shaped by careful research, personal reflection and a desire to honour her legacy.

Throughout my exploration, I have uncovered the broader historical context in Mauritius the social norms of her time, and the challenges faced by individuals like Constance.

Extract from the Introduction to: The Gaze of the Slave Ancestor by Nicolas Couronne (not yet published). Photographs, courtesy Nicolas Couronne: Top right - Nicolas with photo of Constance Couronne in the National Archives, Coromandel, Mauritius. Lower Right: Nicolas at the grave of Robert Trudgett and his wife, Constance Couronne.



2024	PFFF MEETINGS - EVENTS	
September	Friday 27th Committee Meeting <u>Members' Only Morning Tea - Saturday 21st September</u> <u>Saturday 28th September - Workshop: Lyn Watkins</u>	Saturday 28th September - Straw Plaiting Workshop - Friends' Rooms, 10am-1pm.
October	Friday 18th Committee Meeting Guest Speaker General Meeting 25th RIOT DAY - 197th Anniversary Event featuring The Annual Thomas Keneally Lecture - speaker: Assoc. Prof. Hamish Maxwell Stewart	Riots occurred: 27.10.1827; 11.10.36 Riot Day events include - homage to the women; Annual Thomas Keneally Lecture; Opening PFFF Research Centre & Babette Smith Collection. 26 th -27 th October - RAHS Conference- Campbelltown
November	Newsletter 15th Committee Meeting <u>Friday 8th Nov: Workshop: Ancestry Master Class - Kevin Dodds</u>	Riot occurred: 29.11.1831 Parramatta Foundation Day Festival Saturday 2nd November - Female Factory site.
December	Friday 13th Committee Meeting General Meeting	Christmas afternoon tea (note date - 2nd Friday)

Monthly Committee meetings 11am - 1pm. Bi-monthly guest speaker 1:00pm. followed by afternoon tea. General meeting at 2:15pm. PFFF Research Centre is open Friday 10am - 2pm, by appointment.
Regular site tours - by appointment. Contact: Tour Coordinator parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com M: 0456 787 252



PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS INC

present

A COLONIAL CRAFT WORKSHOP 1

- STRAW PLAITING & BRAIDING-

In this workshop participants will be commencing a replica of a sun bonnet similar to a hat made and worn by Female Convicts.

Workshop led by the talented Lyn Watkins, crafter and descendant of Factory women

WHEN: SATURDAY, 28th September 2024 - 10 am to 1 pm.

WHERE: Parramatta Female Factory Friends Room

5 Fleet Street, North Parramatta

No parking onsite - limited on street parking

Straw plaiting was one of the numerous occupations of the convict women transported to the Colony of NSW. There were a number of women in the Female Factory with this skill - all manner of household items and practical goods were made from plaited straw. A plaited straw hat or a bonnet was an essential item of clothing in such a hot climate and for women, an adornment when trimmed with a ribbon or two.

Equipment: Bring your own scissors and tape measure. **WORKSHOP 1 Cost: \$15 plus \$15 for kit.** **WORKSHOP 2 will focus on completing your project - details TBA.**

PLEASE NOTE: We welcome participants who attended the previous workshops .

Enquiries to Lyn: parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com

Bookings essential - places are limited: Eventbrite <https://bit.ly/3Bbfe0c>

web: www.parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au

facebook: www.facebook.com/pfffriends/

email: parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com

PH: 0456 787 252

