



The Secrets of the Female Orphanage

A Fellowship of First Fleeters
Southern Highlands Chapter Event
in Historic Parramatta.

Alexander ~ Borrowdale ~ Charlotte ~ Fishburn ~ Friendship ~ Golden Grove ~ Lady Penrhyn ~ Prince of Wales ~ Scarborough ~ HMS Sirius ~ HMS Supply

DATE: 10.15am WEDNESDAY 27th SEPTEMBER 2017

Where: The Orphanage is situated within the University of Western Sydney Campus the entrance is off James Ruse Drive, Parramatta.

The Tour: 'The Secrets of the Female Orphanage' begins at 10.30 am and lasts for 1 hour.

Cost: \$12 per person to be paid on the day. *Members and Guests welcome.*

Transport: Self Drive - parking on campus at a price ranging from \$6 to \$10.

There is sign-posting at the campus entrance for the Female Orphan School and *we will meet at the Visitors Centre at 10.15, the tour will start at 10.30.*

(Public Transport not practical - takes about 3 hours to get there.)

After the tour we will, at our own pace wander around the University, get a coffee - purchase food for lunch or **follow a self-guided Heritage Walk** to view other historical buildings on campus.

After Lunch, we will gather at 2pm at St John's Cemetery, Parramatta.



The cemetery is the resting place of many of Australia's founding colonists, including 17 First Fleeters with memorials and many more in unmarked graves, pioneers, statesmen, clergymen, clerks, soldiers, and convicts.

Getting there: The cemetery is located on the corner of O'Connell and Aird Streets and is a fairly flat 45 minute walk from the University Campus. Alternately parking is on the streets near the cemetery or in Westfield (a 2 minute walk, first 3 hours free) where the nearest toilets are. (Cemetery closes at 4pm.) Note the cemetery is not next to the Cathedral.

It will be a self-directed tour of the graves where First Fleeters are buried, with some help from Rob. If your ancestor is buried there you might like to share a little of their story with us all. Closed, comfortable shoes are recommended.

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**PLEASE NOTE:** The numbers are unlimited **BUT** we need 10 participants for this tour to go ahead. Thanks go to Trish for organising this event.

It may be possible to arrange a lift for those unable to drive to Parramatta.

Please contact Wendy on 4862 4849 and we will see what we can do - no promises.

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If this event is successful we will plan another day in the historic Parramatta precinct in 2018.

About the Parramatta Female Orphanage School



The Female Orphan School building is a key witness to some of the most significant social changes in Australian history. The building has shaped thousands of lives over the two centuries it has stood on the banks of the Parramatta River.

Whilst something of a hidden treasure, the building is of immense significance to Australia's social history. It is one of the very few surviving public buildings of its size dating from the early colonial period. Predating even Hyde Park Barracks, the Female Orphan School is the oldest three-storey building in the country.



The building stands on the traditional lands of the Darug people, who occupied the western Sydney area and were intimately connected to it.

For most of its life, the building accommodated those who, for whatever reason, were left on the periphery of society. Its first function was to accommodate, educate and train Sydney's 'orphaned' children. After its life as an orphanage, it served as a psychiatric hospital and its changing use over the subsequent 100 years reflected society's evolving understanding of mental illness. By the mid 1980s, the philosophies the building embodied had become obsolete, and the building became disused and fell into disrepair.



Recognising its heritage significance, the University of Western Sydney (now known as Western Sydney University) saw to the building's restoration in a series of projects beginning in 2000. The Female Orphan School has now been revived as the centrepiece of the university's Parramatta campus.



Western Sydney University is honoured to be the custodian of this valuable fragment of Australia's past. The university's Whitlam Institute which now occupies the building is committed to ensuring that the building will be accessible as a truly open, public and democratic space for future generations to appreciate and enjoy.

Source & Further Information: <https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/femaleorphanschool/home>



St. John's Cemetery Parramatta

Australia's oldest surviving European cemetery was established in January 1790 in an old stock paddock on the outskirts of Parramatta, the land of the Darug Nation's Burrumattagal clan. Thenceforth, it became the final resting place of (at least) 50 First Fleeters, a multitude of convicts, soldiers, pioneers and colonial elites who were immortalised in place names in Parramatta and surrounds, Governors' wives, women and children who died at the Parramatta Female Factory, orphans who passed away at the Orphan Schools at Parramatta and Liverpool, as well as patients from the nearby convict hospitals and various mental health institutions in the colony — to highlight just a few major groups that are well represented in this historic cemetery.

Originally a non-denominational cemetery, St. John's is also a place of diversity that provides a more nuanced view of the early colony and the town of Parramatta specifically, with Aboriginal, Jewish, Chinese, Indian, Muslim, Romani, African American, German, Dutch, and French people buried here as well as British Anglicans. This State Heritage listed site, then, is significant not just for Parramatta, New South Wales, or even Australian history, but for World History.

Source & Further Information: <https://stjohnscemeteryparramatta.org/>



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Members and Guests welcome.

NAME/S: _____

MOBILE PHONE: _____

NUMBER ATTENDING: _____

Can you offer a lift to anyone? _____

Please email or post reply to Wendy

PO Box 503 Mittagong 2575

selmans@bigpond.com

as soon as possible but no later
than MONDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER.