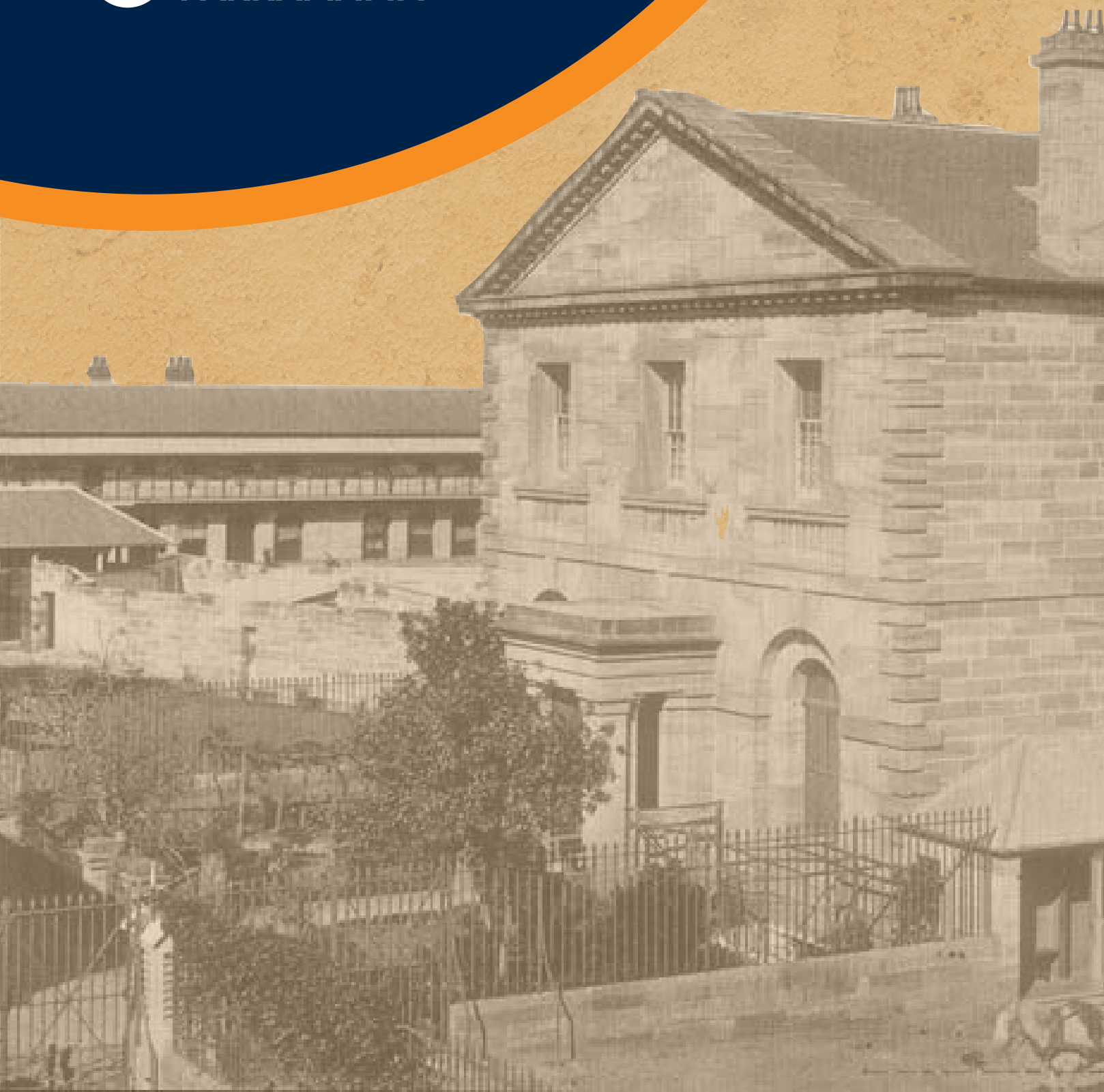


PARRAMATTA GAOL



CITY OF
PARRAMATTA



Front cover image: 1887 photograph of Parramatta Gaol looking to the Governor's House
(Source: Parragirls.com)

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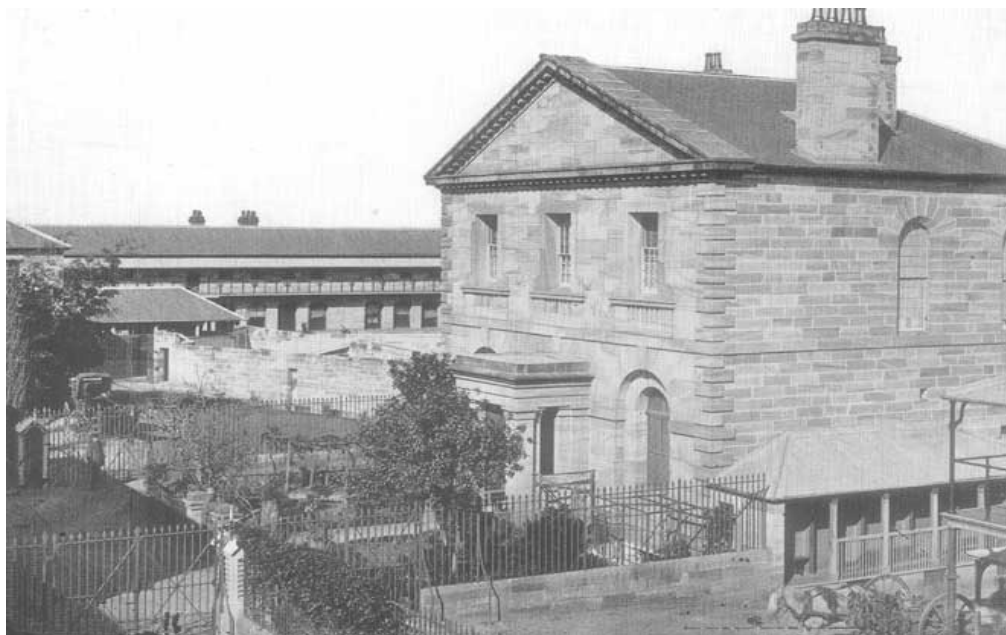
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We thank everyone who has helped in any way to bring about this book.

INTRODUCTION



Parramatta Gaol is considered one of Australia's more important historical sites. Constructed between 1835-1842, it was, until its closure in 2011, Australia's oldest serving gaol. Ownership of the building was transferred to the [Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council](#) in 2015.

Currently this walled sandstone and slate structure now sits empty, a significant cultural resource that reflects the major changes in penal design over a 170-year period. The state heritage listed Gaol complex, together with other early government institutions located along the eastern side of the upper Parramatta River, form an important group of historical structures that define the North Parramatta Precinct.

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Parramatta Gaol: Timeline

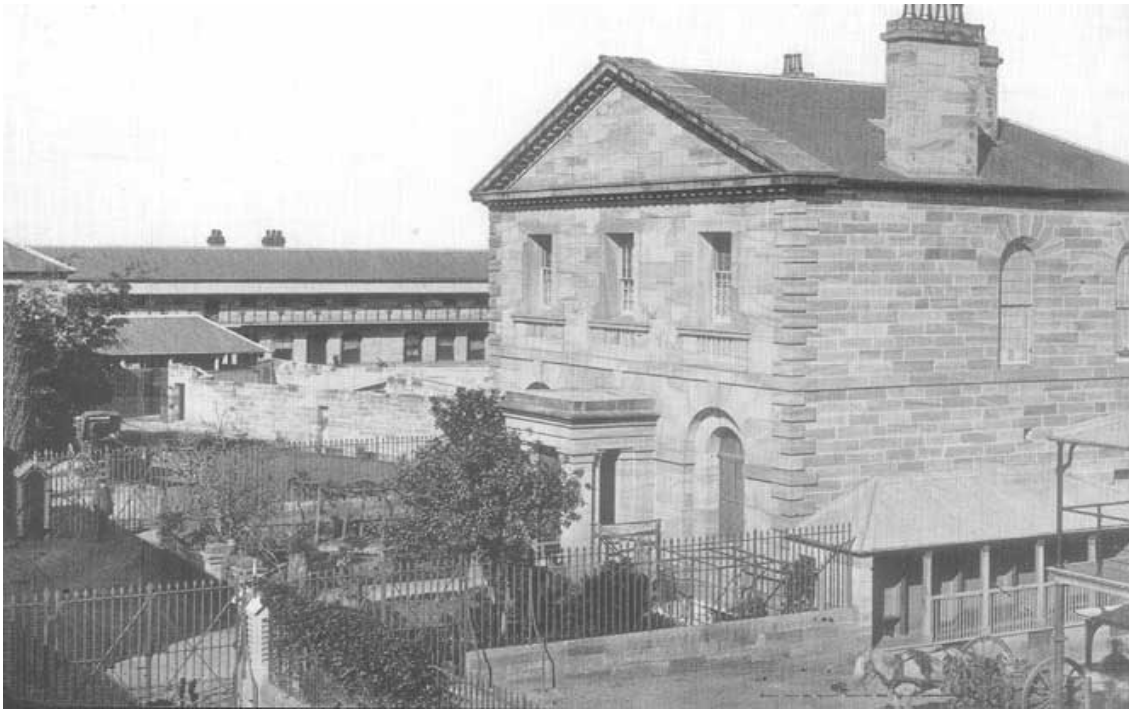
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Pew – 1788	The Burrumattagal people inhabit the area
1788	Governor Phillip names the district Rose Hill due to its proximity to thriver and lush landscape
1796	First Gaol in Parramatta was built "on the north bank of the river near the south boundary of the present Prince Alfred Park" and was constructed of timber
1799	Parramatta Gaol was damaged in a fire. Several convicts were badly burned and at least one died later of his injuries
1804	Parramatta Gaol building work was completed early 1804 at the cost of £1500
1807	Gaol was badly damaged by fire on the 21st December, 1807
1835	Planning began for the construction of a new Gaol
1836	Work commenced on a 250 feet square perimeter wall at its present location on the corner of Clifford and Dunlop Streets a short distance from the Female Factory
1836 – 1842	Building progressed through and resulted in a perimeter wall, governor's house cum chapel and three of the intended five wings costing £34,168
1842	Prisoners were transferred to the site on 15 January 1842
Late 1850s	With better economic times, the gaol area was doubled, workshops and a cookhouse were built, two of the original cell wings were converted to male and female hospital wings
1883 – 1889	Three additional cell wings were built, largely by prison labor. One of these wings was reserved for prisoners certified insane

1897	Parramatta was the second largest Gaol in the colony, with 364 men and eight women inmates
1899	All double cells were converted to single cells, electricity was installed, the prisoners' circumambulatory walks were replaced by physical drill, and a sixth wing was completed
1929	Parramatta Gaol had become the State's principal manufacturing gaol, producing boots, brushes, tinware, clothes, joinery and foodstuffs
1940	Various unsympathetic architectural additions were made to the nineteenth century structure
1970	Parramatta Linen Service, a large auditorium, and an extension to the 1846 gatehouse were built
1990	Reception, administration and visitors' buildings were designed to better match the original sandstone structure
2008	Known as - The Parramatta Correctional Centre
2011	Parramatta Gaol Closed

Old Parramatta Gaol

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A new gaol for Parramatta. Source: Parragirls

The first gaol in Parramatta was built "on the north bank of the river near the south boundary of the present Prince Alfred Park" and was constructed of timber and thatch. This gaol was built in 1796 and was a 100 foot long log walled structure enclosed within a high paling fence. In 1799 it was damaged in a fire and building work was not completed until early 1804. Several convicts were badly burned and at least one died later of his injuries.

The second gaol, existed from c.1802 until c.1841. The work on this gaol began in August of 1802. Reverend Samuel Marsden was responsible for it as he superintended the public works of Parramatta. The second gaol was a roughshod construction built from locally quarried sandstone and was structurally and functionally inadequate. Unfortunately, this gaol deteriorated rapidly and required frequent repair and reconstruction. It is suspected that the convict workmen did their best to erect a place of confinement that would not survive for long. A linen and woolen manufactory was added to the gaol. George Mealmaker, a weaver transported from Dundee, Scotland was appointed to oversee operations for the

work of both male and female convicts. The gaol was finally completed in 1804. This gaol was badly damaged by fire on the 21st December, 1807 and eventually after many years of falling walls and propping up of the structure, planning began for the construction of a new gaol in 1835.

The old Parramatta Gaol continued to be used for some years as a place for felons and prisoners awaiting trial. The old gaol site was used as a dumping ground until 1874 when it was gazetted as Alfred Square (Prince Alfred Park). No traces of its buildings or structures remain.

Parramatta's third gaol was built at North Parramatta. Plans were drawn up for a new gaol in 1835 and in 1836 work commenced on a 250 foot square perimeter wall at its present location on the corner of Clifford and Dunlop Streets, a short distance from the Female Factory. The gaol was built by the builders James Houison and Nathaniel Payten, during the time of Governor Bourke and Governor Gipps. Governor Bourke appointed surveyor, Mortimer William Lewis to be Colonial Architect and instructed him to prepare plans for the gaol. Nathaniel Payten's tender for the erection of the Perimeter Wall was accepted in November 1835 and it was built during 1836. Building progressed through 1836 to 1842 and resulted in a perimeter wall, a governor's house acting as a chapel, and three of the intended five wings. The gaol was proclaimed by Governor Gipps to be a "Public Gaol, Prison and House of Correction" on 3rd January 1842, and it was published in the *Government Gazette* on the 7th January 1842. The prisoners were transferred to the site on 15 January 1842. Parramatta Gaol was the oldest gaol complex in Australia and functioned from 1842 until 2012, and is the most intact of the early gaols of Australia.

The gaol itself was built a bit at a time over many years. The length of time that it took to build the gaol caused many problems with leaking roofs, unplastered walls and inadequate cesspools as just some of the problems still being faced in the 1850s.

The gaol was still not finished at this date, but the old gaol was in such bad condition that it was necessary to transfer the convicts to the new gaol and this was done on the 15th January, 1842. The prisoners were escorted by the military to their new accommodations.

Between 1928 and 1939 it was considered to be New South Wales' principal manufacturing gaol. And in the war years, Parramatta Gaol was utilised as a factory to make war supplies such as camouflage nets, and the reconditioning of military equipment and clothing for both military and civilian use. In the 1970s a

Linen Service was run from the gaol. The roof and interior of the 1860s workshop range was gutted by fire in 1975.

Parramatta Gaol: 20th Century

Parramatta Gaol was designed to house habitual criminals and recidivists with long sentences who could be trained for productive work. By 1929, it had become the State's principal manufacturing gaol, producing boots, brushes, tinware, clothes, joinery and foodstuffs. It also became a centre for rehabilitation, and the single cells were once more converted to multiple cells. It was closed from 1918 to 1922 and briefly used as a mental health facility.

Various unsympathetic architectural additions were made to the nineteenth century structure in the 1940s. In the 1970s the Parramatta Linen Service, a large auditorium, and an extension to the 1846 gatehouse were built. In the 1990s, reception, administration and visitors' buildings were designed to better match the original sandstone structure. The prison was briefly disestablished in July 1997.

In 2008, the Parramatta Correctional Centre was classified as a medium-security, short-term Remand Centre, Transient Centre and Metropolitan Periodic Detention Centre. It housed both un-sentenced and sentenced male inmates, including Drug Court sanctions and male periodic detainees. In December 2011 the Parramatta Correctional Centre was closed.

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Parramatta's First Gaol: 1796 - 1835

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First Bridge at the entrance to Parramatta, ca. 1802

(Source: Parramatta Heritage Centre Local Studies Photographic collection, LSP 00328)

In September 1796, Governor Hunter directed the building of a wooden gaol on the northern riverbank of the new settlement at Parramatta. This 100 foot (30.5 metres) gaol which was built on the site of today's [Prince Alfred Square](#), contained 22 cells and was completed in 1797. Built of logs it was always going to be a temporary building but this first effort at incarcerating criminals was very short lived. On Christmas Eve 1797, it was set fire to and destroyed, killing one inmate in the process.

In August 1802, Governor King ordered the construction of a new gaol on the site of the previous one with King advising Hobart that costs would be 'defrayed by assessments on spirits and strong drinks without any expense to the crown'[\[1\]](#)

The new sandstone building was erected under the direction of the Reverend Marsden who, as magistrate, had been appointed superintendent of buildings in Parramatta instead of Richard Atkins. Marsden really knew little about building.

His builders also knew little about stone masonry as the stone cut and laid was set 'edge bedded' or 'off its bed' and was soon weathering and fretting.^[2] James Kerr has written 'that as the stone was for a gaol, the convict artisans conspired with mutual glee to shorten its life, banking on Marsden's ignorance'.^[3]

A noted convict artisan employed on the gaol was Samuel Terry, an energetic convict frugal enough to buy his own house in the town. He was a shrewd property dealer and financier and became so wealthy those years later he was known as the 'Botany Bay Rothschild'. The convicts derived great delight and satisfaction in having duped 'parson Marsden' and the government. At a cost of £1500, the building was completed in 1804. The clearest view of the gaol appears in Lycett's South View of Parramatta on the far right near the new bridge across the river.^[4]

The masonry was so poorly laid that by 1803 some 20 feet of the surrounding wall had fallen down. Macquarie had architect Francis Greenway report on the building in 1815. Always unrestrained, Greenway remarked 'that he believed the reverend gentleman himself had been the builder' "of these horrible black holes" '.^[5]

This necessitated the ludicrous situation of the deployment of an army detachment to guard the gaol to ensure that prisoners did not escape. In 1835 it was decided to build a new gaol.

Compiled from research donated by John McClymont to the City of Parramatta, Parramatta Heritage Centre.

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^[1] Kass, T., Liston, C., McClymont, J. (1996). *Parramatta, A Past Revealed*. Parramatta, N.S.W.: Parramatta City Council, p. 38.

^[2] Sandstone must be laid in a similar position to the bed or striations from which it is quarried otherwise it may fret rapidly.

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^[4] Lycett, J. (c.1820). *View of Parramatta*. Mitchell Library VIB/ PARR/ 23.

^[5] Ellis, M.H. (1949). *Francis Greenway*. Sydney, N.S.W.: Angus & Robertson, p. 30.

The Parramatta Gaol Bridge: 1802 - 1837

Neera Sahni



*A view of Parramatta Port Jackson, J.W. Lewin, 1809.
(Source: State Library of New South Wales)*

The Gaol Bridge was the first substantial bridge to join the southern and northern section of the new colony at Parramatta (although as James Jervis points out in his 1933 publication 'The Story of Parramatta and District', there had been an earlier bridge which connected the Government Farm with the original settlement, but this had been washed away).

This wooden Gaol Bridge was constructed on the site of the [Lennox Bridge](#) and had a crossing span at Church Street which gave access between the town and the gaol. It also helped to open up access to the growing settlements to the north of Parramatta River.

[Governor Phillip](#) had planned for a large, magnificent town square to close the vista at the northern end of [Church Street](#), next to the river. It can safely be assumed that he planned future access across the river by a bridge at Bridge Street

(the first bridge), and if there was probably to be a second bridge at the end of either Smith or Charles Streets.

Governor Hunter made no mention of a bridge in 1796 when he erected the first wooden gaol on the site in [Prince Alfred Square](#) but Governor King mentions its existence when he commenced a new stone gaol in August 1802. To give access to the gaol, and the first Female Factory built on top of it, Governor King decided to bridge the river at the end of Church Street.

The decking of the bridge was supported on ten sandstone piers. It was of timber and included a guard-rail or balustrade on either side that comprised drop posts with top and bottom rails with each section infilled with timber diagonals.^[1]



Vue D'Un Pont a L'Entrée De Parramatta, Louis Auguste De Sainson. Plate 33 from 'Le Voyage De L'Astrolab'. (Source: State Library of New South Wales)

From the image made from the sketches done on the Dumant D'ville visit it appears as if the approaches to the northern end required extensive fill as the river bank was quite low. Foundations of the buildings on either side of the approaches, which are well below the road level, evidence this. [James Houison's Bond House](#), once on the site of [David Jones' Department Store](#), is known to have had two floor levels

below the Lennox Bridge. The northern bank of shale made a good abutment for that end of the bridge and the height of the bank may still be seen.

Floodwaters in 1826 severely damaged three of the piers and, with one being rebuilt in late 1827, the bridge managed to survive until the late 1830s.^[2] Even then it was declared as almost impassable. It was said that 'even when a horse cantered over it, the bridge would shake. Stockmen told of cattle falling over the sides on being herded across the bridge, as apparently balustrading was missing. Piers supporting the two longer spans on the northern side were now missing and these spans had to be strengthened with trestles of hardwood posts which were braced with diagonals against the feet of the existing stone piers.

By 1835, it was considered that repairs would be to little avail and it became clear that a complete new structure was required.^[3] A [new structure, that remains to this day](#), was designed by David Lennox, completed and opened in 1837.

Compiled from research donated by John McClymont to the City of Parramatta, Parramatta Heritage Centre.

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^[1] Jervis, J.(1961). *The Cradle City of Australia: A History of Parramatta 1788-1961* [Illustration]. Sydney: Parramatta City Council, p. 202.

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Daring Escape from Parramatta Gaol 1890

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Parramatta Gaol. (Source: Peter Arfanis, Parramatta City Council)

On Saturday 2nd August 1890, two prisoners at the Parramatta Gaol made a bold rush for freedom while working on an extension to a wall of the main building. This was not the best planned escape in history and was perhaps doomed to fail as both men simply decided to run away while the warden's attention was elsewhere. Both were noticed almost immediately and challenged to stop; when they didn't the guards opened fire on them and while not hitting either of them scared one of them enough to surrender.

The other prisoner continued to run and although pursued by guards was able to outdistance them. He then made his way through the Asylum Grounds next door and taking off his coat and boots swam across a nearby creek. However, Mr. Wharf the chief attendant at the 'Hospital for the Insane' and one of the guards, Mr. Roy, continued the pursuit and kept him in sight until he hid in the undergrowth near the Old Government House baths. Both men kept guard over him until more

warders arrived and eventually dragged him from his hiding place. The man was particularly angry at Mr. Wharf promising to remember him and at a later date exact his revenge.

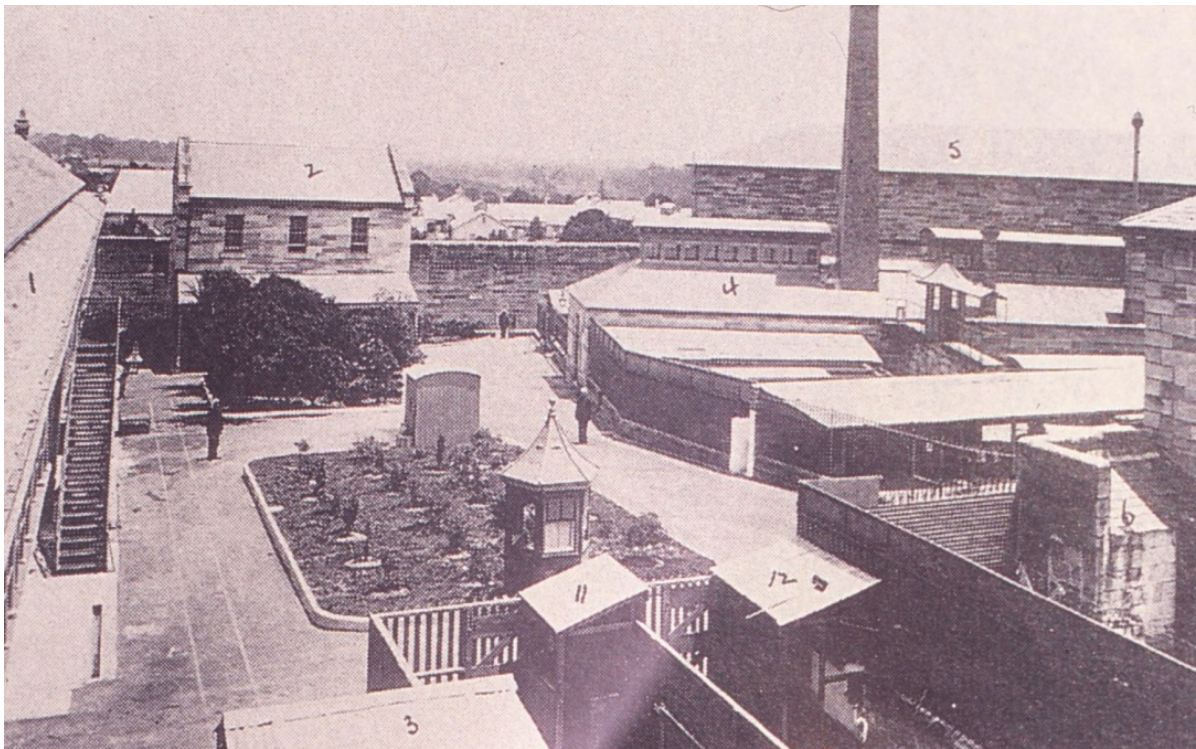
The Argus reports that both men were serving long sentences and one was responsible for the stabbing of Mr. Buller, a Constable from Kiama. However it is possible that the victim was a constable Miller, who was stabbed by George Britten three times beneath his arm in a vicious brawl that [occurred in 1887](#). Britten who was subsequently arrested and locked up for seven years used a bone-handled pocket knife.

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The 'Stench Trap', Parramatta Gaol 1892

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View from 2 tower, showing (1) workshops, (2) store, (3) photographic studio, (4) cookhouse with, in front, the separate yards, and (5) 3 wing, ca. 1898.

(Source: Department of Corrective Services)

When the Parramatta Gaol opened its gates to receive inmates in 1842 it was only one of a number of public facilities in North Parramatta. Next door was the Parramatta Asylum for the insane, the old Female Factory for women convicts and an orphan school. Together the building shared a drainage system which dated to the early 1800s and which discharged sewage directly into the river.

Unfortunately, this was upstream to where most of the inhabitants of Parramatta's river banks lived and worked and was causing [health problems downstream](#). The haphazard manner of expansion of the buildings across the site meant that incarceration at the gaol was a harder trial for inmates still housed in those parts not serviced by drains, or by the antiquated ones which were now finding it difficult to cope with the extra load.

The poor conditions were highlighted in 1892 when a prisoner named James Charlesworth died in the hospital of the Parramatta Gaol from an attack of typhoid fever. Charlesworth had been convicted of receiving stolen cattle at Walgett before being sent to Parramatta Gaol on 20 March 1891 to serve a four year term. He was admitted to the hospital on 11 February 1892 and died there 8 days later. The inquest conducted by District Coroner Mr. J E Bowden and the jury found that the prisoner had died from typhoid fever caused by the poor sanitary conditions caused by the drain in 'number 2 yard' [no pun intended].

It appears Charlesworth had been kept in 'No. 2 Yard' with about forty other prisoners and that two previous cases of typhoid had occurred there. The doctor (Dr. Violette) attributed the outbreak to the back draught emitting from the drain connecting with the main drain ... leading from the Hospital for the Insane to the Parramatta River. Apparently this drain had been repeatedly flushed and disinfected but to no avail. Calls by Violette for a 'stench-trap' to be installed had failed even though he felt it was an urgent necessity. The jury's findings must have gone some way to vindicating the doctor's assessment but unfortunately there seems to have been little follow-up from the authorities.

Step forward 80 years and the issues of drainage were still a problem at the gaol. Unbelievably it was not until 1974 that the gaol connected the last cells to sewage pipes, at a cost of \$105,000.

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Ex-Prisoner Tries to break Into Parramatta Gaol 1926

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Parramatta Gaol. (Source: Peter Arfanis, Parramatta City Council)

This is the unlikely true story of an habitual criminal, Anthes, who tried to break into Parramatta Gaol so he could retrieve the songs he had written while an inmate there.

The story started some 4 years earlier when he was sentenced to a term in Parramatta Gaol. While there he took up the unlikely profession of popular songwriter. When freed on 29 May 1926, he was unable to take the songs he had written while in jail with him because of the absurd and almost certainly fictitious value he placed upon his own song writing skills. As a result he had kept them carefully rolled up and buried in a pickle jar in a remote part of the gaol garden. Away from the prying eyes of his fellow prisoners and the guards.

As The Cumberland Argus explained

...the subject of this little story is no average citizen. He is bound by no such chains of mediocrity. During his incarceration, his nobler qualities asserted themselves. The uncongenial atmosphere of his surroundings fostered rather than checked his literary genius. And by the time he was released he was the author of numerous songs. The children of brain however were not in his possession.

Once free and outside the grey, grim walls of the gaol he found himself separated from his compositions and was, he felt, driven to commit the extreme and somewhat incomprehensible crime of breaking back into the prison to liberate his buried treasure, which in his mind would make his fortune once sold to music publishers.

On the night of 12th June, while walking along Church Street, Sergeant Walsh caught sight of a man he thought he recognised and on asking him his name the man stated he was a member of the large and complicated 'Smith' family tree and that he lived in Baulkham Hills. The sergeant however arrested him after noting the evasive manner in which he answered his questions and also the suspicious pair of gloves he was sporting. Once back at the station Anthes confessed to being responsible for placing a stolen ladder against the wall of the prison. This had been found by warders but presumed it was some part of a break-out plot.

Anthes however explained to the policeman that the opposite was in fact true and that he had placed the ladder against the wall to see if it was tall enough for him to be able to climb into the gaol and retrieve his precious jar of songs. Anthes even visited the gaol with Sergeant Walsh and dug up the pickle jar full of songs.

But after being taken to court his account became more convoluted as he tried to pin the blame on others for trying to get into the gaol and for stealing the ladder. The only consistent feature was the extravagant claim he made about the worth of his songs (60,000 pounds according to the Sydney Morning Herald) but this seemed to have the opposite effect on the court who after hearing this fanciful tale began to wonder if in fact he was actually trying to aid an escape.

Eventually Anthes was sentenced to 12 months for stealing the ladder and a crowbar. As far as I could find out he never secured the publishing deal with Palings and didn't sell any of his songs – in or out of prison.

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Prison Escape, Parramatta Gaol 1968

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Parramatta Gaol. Source: Peter Arfanis, Parramatta City Council

On the morning of the 24th August 1968 the prisoners were being mustered as usual in the gaol's exercise yard when the warders suddenly noticed two men climbing the 25 foot wall of the yard using a rope made out of mattresses. The two prisoners, William Alfred Treacy, aged 22, and Alfred Edward Douglass, aged 24, had quietly moved to the wall of the yard, slung a hook attached to the ropes onto the top of the wall and brazenly began climbing.

One warder fired four shots in an attempt to stop them but failed and both men clambered over the wall and escaped through the grounds of the Psychiatric Centre next door to the gaol. Douglass was serving an 18 month sentence for breaking and entering and Treacy was serving a five year sentence for breaking and entering and stealing when they jumped the wall and started a state-wide hunt which ended 5 days later when armed riot police raided a house in Larra Street, Guildford.



*Police recapture men in raid (1968, August 30, p. 12).
(Source: The Canberra Times).*

At 6.20 am six detectives armed with pistols stormed the house and found Treacy and his 19 year old wife hiding behind the lounge door and Douglass hiding behind a bedroom door where Treacy's five month old son was sleeping in a cot. Two other men and a woman were arrested for harbouring a criminal and Treacy's wife, Michelle, was refused bail as according to Sergeant Connolly she was already on a suspended sentence. She was eventually granted bail on 7th September after spending eight days in gaol; throughout this time the baby was in the care of his grandparents.

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Canned Rock, Live Recording from Parramatta Gaol 1979

Neera Sahni

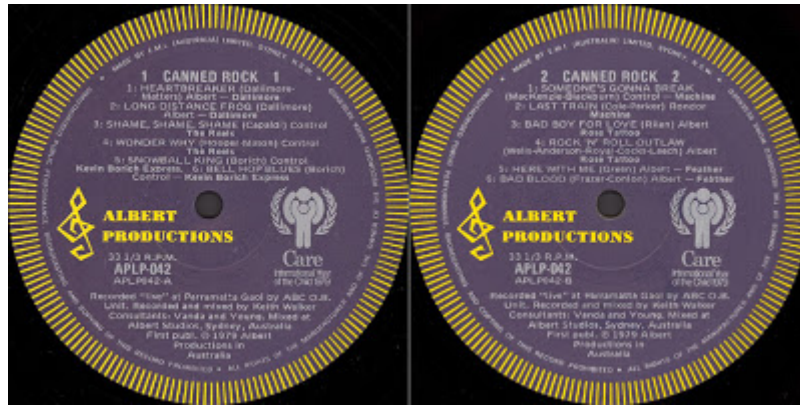


Parramatta Gaol. (Source: Peter Arfanis, Parramatta City Council)

Sometime around the middle of 1979 George Crawford, a prisoner's representative from Parramatta Gaol approached the Australia record label "Albert Productions" and suggested they back the making a live recording inside the prison.

Albert Productions agreed and the resulting album "Canned Rock" was recorded from three concerts held inside the gaol on the 5th and 12th of August and the 9th September and all the proceeds went to the "International Year of the Child" fund. Crawford acted as MC alongside Donnie Sutherland and Rusty Nails.

Perhaps not surprisingly the bands recorded for the album were a fair sampling of local Australian hard rock bands and included: The Reels; Dallimore; Kevin Borich Express; Machine; Rose Tattoo and Feather. The production team of 'Vanda and Young' agreed to make the track selection and set up the release of the record while 2JJ engineer Keith Walker agreed to do the recording and engineering.



*Canned Rock, 1979, Albert Productions, various artists, live Parramatta Gaol.
(Source: Rock on Vinyl)*

Released in late 1979 the track list was as follows:

- 01 – Dallimore – Heartbreaker
- 02 – Dallimore – Long Distance Frog
- 03 – The Reels – Shame, Shame, Shame
- 04 – The Reels – Wonder Why
- 05 – Kevin Borich Express – Snowball King
- 06 – Kevin Borich Express – Bell Hop Blues
- 07 – Machine – Someone's Gonna Break
- 08 – Machine – Last Train
- 09 – Rose Tattoo – Bad Boy For Love
- 10 – Rose Tattoo – Rock 'N' Roll Outlaw
- 11 – Feather – Here With Me
- 12 – Feather – Bad Blood

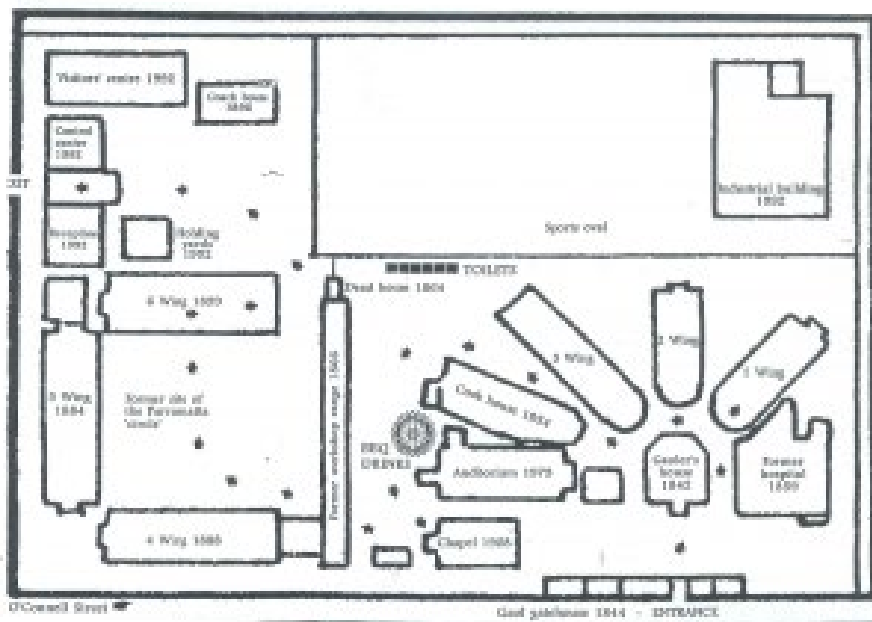
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Parramatta Gaol: Building, Prisoner's Routine & Employment

Neera Sahni

There were a number of sites owned by the Department of Corrective Services situated on over 10 hectares of land around the Parramatta Gaol. These included the Parramatta prison, the Parramatta Linen Service and the Merinda Periodic Centre.



Parramatta Correctional Centre, 1995. (Source: James Semple Kerr).

Merinda Periodic Detention Centre - This a single story timber building used to house a maximum of 19 female inmates from Friday to Sunday. During the week, it was a conference centre and overnight accommodation for staff.

Motor maintenance and stores complex - Repair and maintenance was carried out here for all the vehicles associated with Parramatta Gaol and Parramatta Linen Service

PWD compound - Consists of a group of nine galvanised iron sheds that were used to store lawn mowers and other garden tools used by the prisoners.



Parramatta Gaol rooftops, 2012. (Source: Geoff King, Parramatta City Council).

Area East of the Parramatta Gaol - Between Dunlop and Barney Streets, there are two timber residences to accommodate officers. These residences were built in the early 1900s. One of the residences on the southern side was used as officer's mess hall, while the other one on the northern side was used as recreational hall. The northern residence was used as male detention centre to house 22 inmates on the weekends.

There are two single story cottages between Barney Street and Board Street. One of the cottages was occupied by ten parole officers, one welfare officer and administrative staff of the Parramatta Probation and Parole Service. The second cottage was used for administrative functions on a 24 hours basis, for example the handling of emergency situations, the movement of prisoners for Parramatta, Malwa, Silverwater, Norma Parker centre and Emu Plains gaols.

Prisoners spending - According to Parramatta Gaol Study conducted by the NSW Department of Public Works in 1980 – prisoners in Parramatta Gaol earned between \$12 to \$32 per week. Collectively all the prisoners were earning \$500,000. Many prisoners were sending all their money at home whereas \$48,000 annually was spent on radios, record players, tapes, books and art craft material. According to the 1974 prison census, 53.7% of Parramatta Gaol inmates were aged between 26 and 34, with 32.4% under the age of 26.

The Gaol Complex - Parramatta Gaol complex covers over approximately 4.4 hectares – from Dunlop Street in the south to the banks of the Darling Mills Creek in the north. The gaol area is rectangular in shape (345 metres x 130 metres) and

has three defining areas: the gaol, the Linen Service, and the sports yard, which was surrounded by 6 metre high secure walls.

Linen Service - The Parramatta Linen Service had an industrial laundry, landscaped lawns, a gatehouse, and vehicle lock connecting the zone with the Gaol. Linen service used to provide laundry service to the range of state institutions and provide employment to the inmates.

Gaol and Sports Yard - The gaol zone is divided by the Bootshop building into two sectors – the northern and southern sectors.

Northern Sector – Gatehouse - The purpose of this was to control the access of prisoners, visitors, staff, and vehicle access to the gaol. The Gatehouse was also the communication centre for calling prisoners to the visits. CCTV cameras were also controlled from the Gatehouse.

Three radical accommodation wings.

Wing 1 - Approximately 10.8 square metres and accommodates 30 long term inmates.

Wing 2 - Approximately 9.3 square metres and accommodates 30 cookhouse staff.

Wing 3 - Approximately 10.0 square metres and accommodates 92 houses remand and reception inmates.



Parramatta Gaol Sports Yard, 2012. (Source: Geoff King, Parramatta City Council).

Administration buildings.

Bakehouse.

Auditorium.

Cookhouse - Used to provide cooked food for gaol inmates. Food was prepared in the cookhouse building and was taken to all the wings by trollies for distribution.

Chapel - This was used for services conducted by the Salvation Army and for band practice, meditation and prisoners' weddings.



Parramatta Gaol Chapel, 2012. (Source: Geoff King, Parramatta City Council).

Sports Yard.

Bootshop - The Bootmaker or Tinsmith building separate wings 1, 2 and 3 from wings 4, 5 and 6. The bootshop is used for various things over the years. The tailor shop was on the first floor whereas the ground floor was used for office space, a building maintenance workshop, a prisoner's canteen and a television repair shop.

Southern Sector - Has three accommodation wings.

Wing 4 - Approximately 6.9 square metres and accommodates 78 long term prisoners and prisoners under observation.

Wing 5 - Approximately 7.2 square metres and accommodates 82 long term prisoners.

Wing 6 - Approximately 8.0 square metres and accommodates 83 segregated and protected prisoners.



Parramatta Gaol Six Wing, 2012. (Source: Geoff King, Parramatta City Council).

Boilerhouse - Used to generate the power for the prison complex. Later the building was used as a printing workshop, light metal workshop, boiler room and store.

Stores and ablution block building.

Employment - 170 to 240 prisoners were involved in the prison industry. This includes:

The Parramatta Linen Service: 100-120.

Cookhouse: 15-20.

Building maintenance: 10-20.

Tailor shop/bootshop: 4-14.

Light metal shop/Boilerhouse: 3-12.

Blacksmith: 1-7.

Ground maintenance: 6.

Printing workshop: 3 – 6.

Store: 3.

Auditorium sweepers: 3.

Wing sweepers (3 per wing): 18.

Wing storemen: 7.

Garbage truck: 1.

There were various activities in which prisoners could participate. This includes:

Sports - Athletics, boxing, volleyball, football, cricket.

Leisure - Reading, debating, yoga, music, creative writing.

Arts & craft - Glass painting, copper craft, woodcraft, veneer inlay, oil and water painting.

Daily routine of the prisoners.

7am – 8am – Breakfast.

8am – 11.45am - Prisoners are housed in the circle or in the protection yard.

11.45am – 12.45pm - Lunch given in their cells.

12.45pm – 3pm - Prisoners are housed in the circle or in the protection yard.

3pm – 3.30pm - Prisoners are secured in their cells.

3.30pm – 4pm – Dinner.

4pm – 7am - Prisoners are locked up in their cells.

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Media Release: Prison to Close

Neera Sahni

Tuesday, 6 September 2011

3pm

PRISONS TO CLOSE

Issued: Tuesday, 6 September 2011

Parramatta, Kirkconnell and Berrima Correctional Centres will close by the end of the year following an unprecedented drop in the prison population.

All inmates from those centres will be relocated by December 2011 and staff will be redeployed in a process that will save the State Government an estimated \$26 million per annum.

There were 11,224 prison beds available at the end of August but only 9,847 inmates. That's down from 10,400 in June last year.

Consultation with unions commenced in July to discuss the closure of between 600 and 650 beds and the need to find savings across the organisation.

Parramatta prison was partially closed in September last year when three of its six wings were shut. The building is 169 years old.

Voluntary redundancy packages, redeployment and additional training have been offered to all staff and every attempt is being made to backfill positions.

Commissioner Ron Woodham said support teams including senior HR managers will attend all three centres over the next month to offer advice and support in regard to employment options.

The Commissioner has written personally to all staff at Parramatta, Berrima and

Kirkconnell advising them of the organisational changes.

There has already been a significant response to the latest round of voluntary redundancy packages which closed on August 26.

One hundred and eighty offers have already been approved and sent out to interested staff.

Staff were personally informed of the closures today.

Parramatta

200 inmates are currently housed at Parramatta Correctional Centre which has the capacity to hold 580 inmates. They will be relocated to vacant beds at the Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre, Silverwater, Long Bay, Parklea, Bathurst and the South Coast Correctional Centre.

A total of 143 staff from Parramatta Correctional Centre will be redeployed or offered voluntary redundancies due to the closure of this centre. Where vacancies exist, staff will be transferred around the State to backfill positions.

The future of the facility will be reviewed by the State Property Authority due to the buildings historic and heritage significance. The prison will close following a staged reduction before Christmas.

Berrima

Berrima Correctional Centre holds 75 inmates and has a current prison population of 60 inmates. Most of these female prisoners will be relocated to Dillwynia and Emu Plains Correctional Centres.

The 49 staff currently based at Berrima will be redeployed or offered voluntary redundancy.

All community projects currently being undertaken by inmates will not only continue but be expanded. An operational plan has been developed to assign the programs to offenders on Community Service Orders and Intensive Corrections Orders. Additional support will be provided by Goulburn Correctional Centre. These programs are a vital rehabilitation tool for offenders and an important service to the community. A plan has been put in place to ensure the service provided by Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW) continues.

The prison will be closed by early November 2011.

Kirkconnell

Kirkconnell has the capacity to house 250 inmates, the current population being 170 inmates. All of these inmates will be relocated to the minimum security wings at Bathurst and Long Bay.

57 staff at the centre will be redeployed or offered voluntary redundancies. Every attempt is being made to accommodate the requests of officers at the centre.

The Pups in Prison program will remain at Kirkconnell in the immediate short term before being relocated to Emu Plains Correctional Centre, to accommodate the highly successful program.

All community projects currently being undertaken by inmates will not only continue but be expanded. An operational plan has been developed to assign the programs to offenders on Community Service Orders and Intensive Corrections Orders. Additional support will be provided by Bathurst Correctional Centre inmates. These programs are a vital rehabilitation tool for offenders and a critical service to the community. A plan has been put in place to ensure the service provided by CSNSW continues.

The facility will be closed early December 2011.

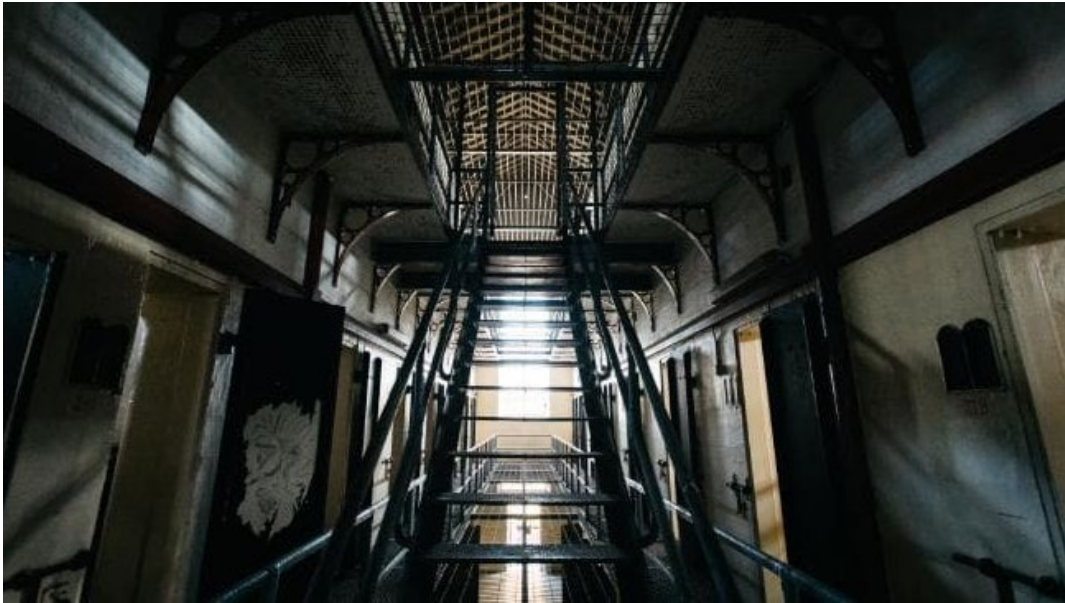
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Parramatta Gaol – Inside Images of Abandoned Prison

Neera Sahni



Parramatta gaol, which was decommissioned in December 2011.
Picture: Tim Frawley (Source: news.com.au)



The abandoned common area.
Picture: Tim Frawley (Source: news.com.au)



A letter is stuck to one of the cell walls addressed to Baby Joe Redmond in Newcastle.

Picture: Tim Frawley (Source: news.com.au)



This cell was home for a rev head.

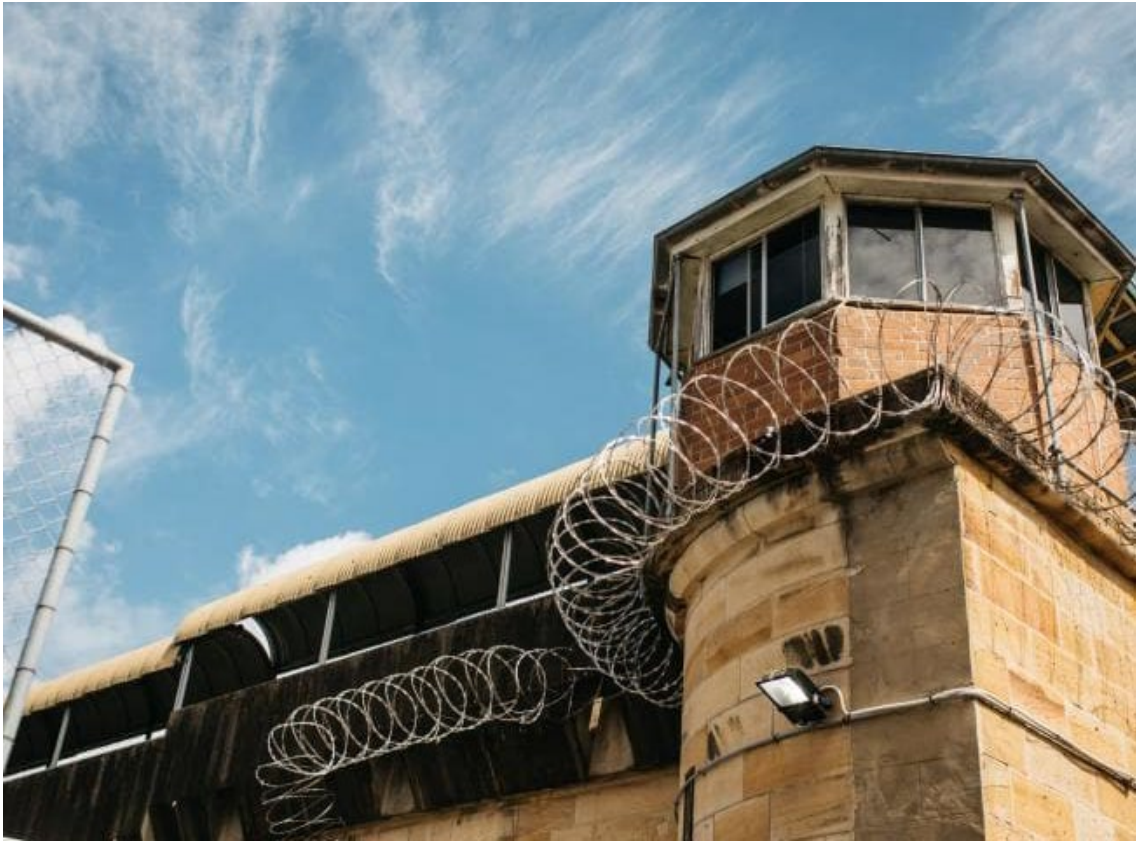
Picture: Tim Frawley (Source: news.com.au)



The cells have been left as they were.
Picture: Tim Frawley (Source: news.com.au)



The outdoor lavatories.
Picture: Tim Frawley (Source: news.com.au)



Parramatta Correction Centre guard tower

Picture: Tim Frawley (Source: news.com.au)



Parramatta Correction Centre gate

Picture: Tim Frawley (Source: news.com.au)



The Parramatta prison chapel.

Picture: Tim Frawley (Source: *news.com.au*)



Inmate visitors entry

Picture: Tim Frawley (Source: *news.com.au*)

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Back cover image: 1887 photograph of Parramatta Gaol looking to the Governor's House
(Source: Parragirls.com)

