

“Whispers”



The Female Factory History

Opened in 1828, Yard 1 of the site was built on the site of Thomas Lowes Distillery, making use of the existing distillery buildings and adding more designed by the famous colonial architect, John Lee Archer. Over the years of operation of the Female Factory in Hobart, the site gradually expanded to include all of Degraeves Street. Hundreds of interesting stories of the women imprisoned there are waiting to be told and their legacy to Australia honoured.

Volunteer



Profile

Veronica Dick

Veronica is one of our longest-serving and most valued workers, responsible for supervision, training and rosters for our volunteer workforce. This program has won 3 National Australia Bank awards, the last in 2006. She also assists with the successful Work-for-the Dole program we have initiated at the site and works closely with FFHS Project Manager Shirley McCarron. This ensures that the standards set for the site by our Board of Directors continue to be met.

Veronica is respected by all who work with her and is a great asset to the organization. She is married to Robert, with two sons and has a strong interest in music (plays piano), theatre, dance and is an avid supporter of the Arts.

Birthday Celebrations !

Next year (2008) will mark the 180th Anniversary of the Female Factory at Cascades opening and the first intake of women convicts to the Factory.

A year of events will be presented to mark this special event for the site as it works towards its World Heritage nomination. We hope to be able to publish the details in our next edition of “Whispers”.



One of our possible projects is expected to be an Old English Village Fete with many interesting and fun activities.

Our Tours

The tour of the historic site includes yards 1 and 3 of the original complex with interpretive plaques, archaeological digs and the Matron's Cottage in Yard 4. The Memorial Gardens, created in memory of the women and children who passed through the site are particularly beautiful and are often used for wedding photography and small functions. The Visitor Centre and Site Shop offers a range of quality Tasmanian products and books in addition to free tastings of a superb Tasmanian fudge.

Shop (Mon-Fri)

1 Dec to 30 April,
9am to 5.00pm

1 May to 30 Nov,
9am to 4.30pm



Tours (Booking essential)

1 Dec to 30 April, 9.30am + 2pm
1 May to 30 Nov, 9.30am only



Morning Tea with the Matron

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
10.30am

*Bookings must be made at least
24 hours in advance for
Morning Tea.*

Would you like to receive newsletter by email?
If so, Please email info@femalefactory.com.au.

AUGUST 2007

Winifred Booth Gallery

The Gallery and it's first exhibition was opened by our Patron, the Governor of Tasmania in late April. The fully restored and conserved two front rooms of the Matron's Cottage have been much admired by all of our visitors since it's opening.

'First Steps' featured a unique display of heritage christening robes and bonnets and glimpses of current arts projects at the site.

The gallery will be used for future exhibitions and displays.

Watch this space for details of upcoming events.

Roses from the Heart

Christina Henri is inviting 25,000 women worldwide to make a bonnet to pay tribute to the convict women who were transported from the United Kingdom to 'parts unknown', in the nineteenth century.

Christina, who is the Female Factory's Honorary Artist in residence, has just completed her Masters Degree.

She is asking women with convict ancestors to make a bonnet. However, if you have no female convict in the family history, don't despair – you can "adopt" a convict woman.



This remarkable project will become an outstanding arts installation and will be premiered in Hobart followed by Sydney, London and Dublin.

Bonnet patterns are available from the Female Factory Site Shop. To access a convict lass for adoption, patterns and more information contact Christina on her email cjhenri@inet.net.au or visit her website : www.christinahenri.com.au

Female Factory Garden Group

This recently established group of dedicated volunteers (headed by our Company Secretary Geoffrey Wood), have been extremely active over the last few months, developing a Herb Garden on the Syme St frontage of Yard 3.

They have tested the soil, marked out beds, undertaken some plantings and are potting up plants ready for the Spring. Interested? We would love to have your help – please call Geoffrey on 62231559 during office hours.

The Convict Maid" song

*You lads and lasses all attend to me
While I relate my tale of misery
By hopeless love was I once betrayed
And now I am, alas, a convict maid*

*To please my lover did I try so sore
That I spent upon him all my master's store
Who in his wrath did so loud apraid
And brought before the judge this convict maid*

*The judge his sentence then to me addressed
Which filled with agony my aching breast
"To Botany bay you must be conveyed
For seven long years to be a convict maid"*

*For seven long years I toil in pain and grief
And curse the day when I became a thief
O had I stuck by some honest trade
I ne'er had been, alas, a convict maid*

Convict Iron Beds

We are delighted to announce the acquisition of two antique beds issued by the Board of Ordinance for the use of convicts and soldiers pre 1856.

Purchase was made possible through a grant from the Federal Government's Moveable Heritage Program.

They have the foundry markings from the Pendarren foundry in Wales, Board of ordinance and the convict broad arrow markings and are in excellent condition, although very heavy!!

The two beds are different, one is rigid with no headboard, the other (as shown in the photo by Richard Kent of Kent and Kent Antiques) folds up and can be also used as a chair.



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