

Parragirls

2006 – 2023

Other Names: • Parramatta Female Factory Precinct Association

URL: <https://webarchive.nla.gov.au/tep/85633>

Details

Parragirls was an organisation of over 350 former residents of the Parramatta Girls Home and their supporters, including activists and academics. Parragirls provided a contact register and support network for the Forgotten Australians of the Parramatta Girls Home, Kamballa and related institutions.

The organisation was formed in 2006 to lobby for the preservation of the site of the former Female Factory, which later became Parramatta Girls' Home, and was used as Kamballa, Taldree and the Norma Parker Detention Centre. The organisation also drew attention to the history of the site, as a place for the incarceration of women.

In 2017, after significant lobbying by Parragirls, the Parramatta Female Factory and Institutions Precinct was inscribed on the National Heritage List. The inscription notes that “the Precinct is outstanding in its capacity to tell the stories of women and children in institutions over the course of Australian history”. Parragirls works to protect, preserve and promote the history and heritage of the Precinct, and activate it as an International Site of Conscience.

Parragirls was wound up in 2023. The Parragirls website has been archived by the National Library of Australia.

Gallery



Abandon All Hope - a history of Parramatta Girls Home

Description: Caption taken from YouTube: Abandon All Hope is the first documented history of the Parramatta Girls Home - a project made possible through the Parrastories Heritage and Stories fund, Parramatta City Council. Until now the story of this State operated welfare institution has remained relatively unknown. The document examines the site's archaeological heritage together with an overview of the statutory and societal forces and the individual and collective experiences of the young people who once resided within its walls.

More info

Related Entries

Related Organisations

- [Kamballa \(1974 - 1983\)](#)

Parragirls works to preserve the site of Kamballa.

- [Taldree \(1974 - 1980\)](#)

- [Roman Catholic Orphan School \(8 March 1844 - 1886\)](#)

Parragirls is lobbying for the preservation of the Roman Catholic Orphan School buildings, part of the former Parramatta Girls Industrial School and now part of the Parramatta Female Factory Precinct.

- [Institution for Girls, Hay \(28 July 1961 - 1974\)](#)

- [Myee \(1926 - 1977\)](#)

- [Parramatta Girls Training School \(1946 - 1974\)](#)

Resources

- Djuric, Bonney, *Abandon All Hope: a history of Parramatta Industrial School*, 2011
- Valentine, Alana, *Parramatta girls (A Play)*, 2007
- Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, [The Forgotten Australians, Business of the House, Speakers](#) [Hornery Ms Sonia; Goward Ms Pru; Ashton Mr Alan; Maguire Mr Daryl; Morris Mr Matthew](#), Hansard, 25 November 2010
- Benns, Matthew, [Rees offers apology to casualties of care system](#), The Sydney Morning Herald, 20 September 2009
- Watson, Vanessa, [Parramatta Girls: 'exposed to moral danger'](#), Parramatta Sun, 8 May 2014
- Hibberd, Lily with Djuric, Bonney (editors), *Parragirls: Reimagining Parramatta Girls Home through art and memory*, 2019

You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/parragirls/>