PARRAMATTA DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
HERITAGE FESTIVAL PROGRAM
10 April - 14 May 2023

"*Australia's Communication Links to the World*" Talk – Wednesday 12.30pm 12 April 2023 – Les Fenech

Do you enjoy TV and your mobile phone?

Come along and learn about the journey from telegraph through to the Radio era, undersea cables to satellites and the Moon landing.

Learn about Australia's role in this journey and how Parramatta was very involved in some of these events.

Cost: $5.00, **Venue:** Hambledon Cottage, **Time:** 12.30pm–1.30pm, **Bookings**: Required,
 Event Code: ACW

"*An Update on Penelope Lucas and John Macarthur's Lunacy*" Talk – 12.30pm Wed 19 April 2023 – Ken Smith

For some time, we have had difficulty understanding Penelope Lucas' background and we understood that John Macarthur was declared "incapable of managing his own affairs" in Hambledon Cottage.

However, new evidence has been found which gives an enlightened view of Penelope and we now know how and where John was declared insane. Come along and learn about the new facts.

Cost: $5.00, **Venue:** Hambledon Cottage, **Time:** 12.30pm – 1.30pm, **Bookings**: Required,
 Event Code: JMC

"*Whispering Bones Tour*" Walk – 12.30pm Saturday 22 April 2023 – Judith Dunn

Take a tour in the past lane. Visit the oldest remaining cemetery and see the earliest gravestone in Australia. Be enthralled with surprising, but true tales of strange happenings in early Parramatta.

Whose bodies were carried to the grave by the chain gang? **Why** was a funeral held for a leg? **How** and where were suicides buried? **Which** woman killed a policeman? **Who** was Miss Sportly?

All will be revealed on this tour.

(WEAR   Closed shoes and bring water and hat)

Cost: $15.00, **Venue:** Meet at St. John's Cemetery, **Time:** 10.00am – 12.00noon, **Bookings**: Required,
Event Code: WBT

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	"*A Captivating Colonial Chronicler – Margaret Catchpole*" Talk –12.30pm Wed 3 May2023 – Ronda Gaffey Convict Margaret Catchpole arrived in Sydney Cove in 1801. Between 1802 and 1811, she wrote to relatives and friends in England giving detailed accounts of the beauty and bountifulness she saw in her world of exile, as well as the cruelty and misfortune experienced by many. In this talk, Ronda, a passionate family historian with particular interest in the lives of colonial convict women, will unpack a selection of her letters, revealing Margaret's role as an important chronicler of life in the colony and, a woman who defies the female convict stereotype. **Cost:** $5.00, **Venue:** Hambledon Cottage**, Time:** 12.30pm – 1.30pm **Bookings**: Required, **Even**t **Code:** CCC
	"*Heritage Pubs and Development in Parramatta*" Walk – Sunday 7 May 2023 – Gary Carter Wander through the Parramatta CBD discovering the locations and stories behind some of the earliest hotels in our "Cradle City", and the new hi-rise developments that are now taking over. Do you know how many pubs were in Parramatta in the colonial days and where they were located? Parramatta has a great history and heritage, but do you know of some of the major developments underway or being contemplated in Parramatta's CBD? Where was the first beer sold in Parramatta? What pot house did Charles Darwin visit in 1836? Was St John's Church connected to the Strong Man Inn? Come along and join a true Parramattan. (WEAR Closed shoes and bring water and a hat) **Cost:** $15.00, **Venue:** Hambledon Cottage, **Time:** 9.30am–12.00noon, **Bookings**: Required, **Event Code:** PUB
	"*Joseph Mortelmans – The Last Pirate of the Pacific*" Talk – 12.30pm Wed 10 May 2023 – Judith Dunn What was a Belgian National doing in Parramatta Gaol having been caught committing piracy in the Pacific and tried in Fiji? A convoluted and bloodthirsty tale of murder and mayhem on the high seas. Did one pirate get away? All will be revealed. It will be up to the listener to decide the truth. **Cost:** $5.00, **Venue:** Hambledon Cottage, **Time:** 12.30pm – 1.30pm, **Bookings**: Required, **Event Code:** MOR