

Whispers, Tales & Gossip

An HSIE Program Years 4 – 6
Old Government House, Parramatta



Teachers Kit



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The Costume of the Australasians. Watercolour by Sophia Campbell c1817
(Private collection)

WHISPERS TALES AND GOSSIP OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE

What is the program about?

The program is presented as a role play. It's 1819 at Government House Parramatta. The Governor is due to receive a group of reporters from the London Gazette to discuss the state of the colony. Rumours have been heard in London about gross mismanagement, extravagant building schemes, the dreadful state of the female convicts and the outrage felt by the free settlers and the military over the opportunities for emancipated convicts. What are relations with the Aborigines like, how do they fit in to colonial life? What is the real story? To find out the truth the reporters have permission to talk to not only the Governor but the people who live, work and visit the house.

On this day various people in the house are aware that the reporters are visiting. Mrs Macquarie has made herself available to meet the press. If they have time a member of Governor Macquarie's staff, the governess Mary Rouse, Lachlan Macquarie Jnr's tutor Theodore Bartley or Sergeant Whalan the Governors' Confidential Orderly will talk to the press. One of the servants, the housekeeper Jemima Fisher, the cook Mrs Ovens or the chambermaid Mary Jelly may find the time to be interviewed. Eliza Walsh, a free settler and the Reverend Samuel Marsden are likely to be visiting the house on the day.

Governor Macquarie may be able to speak to the press, if he is too busy his secretary, John Thomas Campbell may be able to speak on his behalf.

(Please let students know that the Governor is very busy and although there may be the chance of an interview with him, he may ask his secretary, Campbell, to speak on his behalf)

The aim of the program

The students as the reporters in this role play are encouraged to find out what the different people in the house think of the Governor and their own life in the colony. Every character will have a different perspective according to their sex, occupation and status in the household. The students are encouraged to reflect on these different accounts and to produce a newspaper article based on this experience.

Whispers Tales and Gossip enables students to:

- Develop an understanding and empathy for peoples of the past
- Compare and evaluate different perspectives and viewpoints
- Explore the nature of historical investigation through primary and secondary sources
- Evaluate the significance of Old Government House as a heritage site

Organisation

The program is designed for a maximum of 45 students. When the students arrive there will be an editorial briefing in the cellar. This includes a slide presentation on the Macquarie household and issues affecting the colony at Parramatta. The reporters are divided into four groups each with appointment cards to see the different interviewees.

By rotating throughout the house each group will interview all of the interviewees.

At the end of the program the reporters gather in the cellar and report their findings.

There are no food outlets at Old Government House so students should bring their lunch and a drink with them. Toilets are available on site and in Parramatta Park.

Related activities

Whispers Tales and Gossip can be used in conjunction with visits to the Cemetery, Parramatta Park, Experiment Farm and Elizabeth Farm.

Suggested pre-visit activities

Students will gain the most benefit from the program if the following suggestions are followed:

- Research the lifestyle of the Dharug before 1788 and assess the impact that European settlement had on their way of life.
- Draw a time line starting from Aboriginal settlement in Australia (approximately 50,000 years ago) up to the beginning of the Macquarie era in 1810.
- Familiarise students with the history of Parramatta and Old Government House.
- Introduce them to the profiles of the characters they will be interviewing. Explain that their task will be to act as reporters for a London newspaper and that they are required to find out about life in the colony and the opinions of each of the characters about Governor Macquarie and his family, Aborigines, women, convicts, emancipated convicts and free settlers.
- Using the profiles and original sources provided, students prepare questions about the lifestyles, occupations and attitude to the Governor for each of the characters.
- Encourage the students to ask questions that probe the social relationships within the colony and the household. Questions can examine the choices, rights and freedoms that these individuals have and how their personal stories and attitudes reflect their place in the colony.

Examples of questions that could be asked by the students:

What is your job here in the colony?

Do the Governor and his wife treat you well?

Do you think that the Governor is doing a good job as Governor of the colony?

What are the good things that the Governor is doing for the colony?
Do you agree with the way that the Governor is treating the Aboriginal people

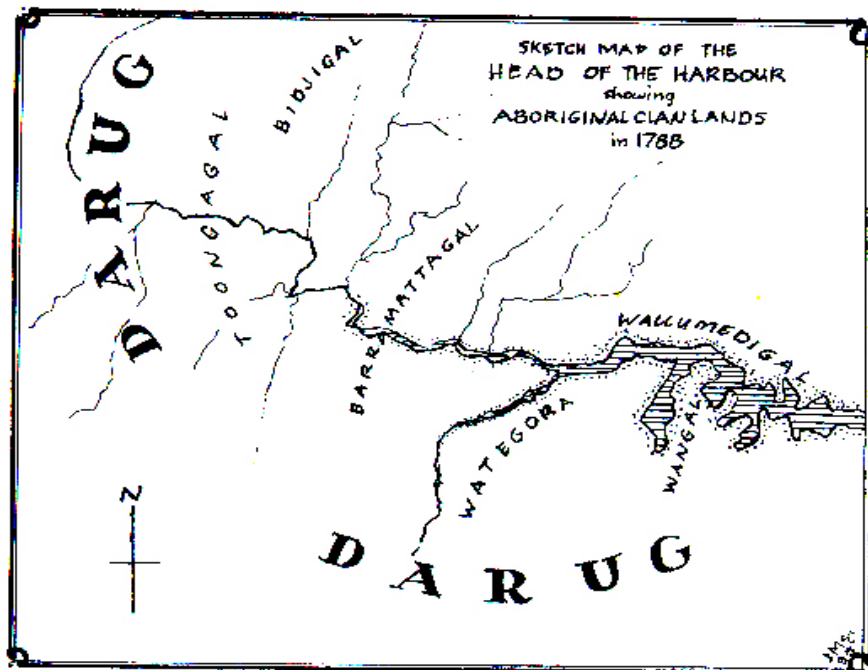
- Discuss the role of a reporter and their need to collect information and opinions.
- Practice interview techniques
- Divide the class into four groups prior to the excursion.
- Nominate one person in the group to be the scribe, to take notes for the group. We have found that if everyone is writing answers to the questions there is a pre-occupation with writing rather than with asking questions

PRE-VISIT RESOURCE MATERIAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

PARRAMATTA & OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE AS AN HISTORIC SITE

Pre-colonisation

Prior to the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788 there were about 600 Aboriginal tribes in Australia, each with its own language and legends. The Darug tribe occupied an area from the Blue Mountains to coast and from the Shoalhaven River to Broken Bay. Tribes consisted of family associations and were divided into clans consisting of thirty to sixty people. The clan around present day Parramatta were the Burrumattagal – The name Parramatta is a European interpretation of the Burrumattagal name. 'Parramatta' has been variously translated as meaning 'the place where the eels lie down', 'the head of a river', and 'plenty of eels'. The land was flat and rather low; the trees were described in contemporary accounts as immensely large and at considerable distance from each other and the ground covered with rich and succulent grass that extended westward from Parramatta to the Cumberland plain. A few remnant trees still survive in Parramatta Park.



Sketch map of the head of the harbour showing Aboriginal clan lands at the time of European settlement. (John McClymont)

Aboriginal people used the area as a place to cross the river and it provided access to different environments, water and land. They hunted possums and sometimes kangaroo as well as many other animals on the open grasses, and used fire as a means for changing the environment and as a tool to assist with hunting. All groups took advantage of a rich range of fruits and vegetables such as yams. Fishing from the Parramatta River supplied them with mullet, perch and eels.

Post- Colonisation

Desperate to find fertile land to help feed a hungry military and convict population at Sydney Cove, Governor Phillip explored the Parramatta area in April 1788. He established a settlement on Darug land, which he called Rose Hill after Sir George Rose, Treasurer to the Navy.

Many documents refer to the generosity and hospitality of the Darug people to the Europeans. But as more settlers spread across the land and obviously intended to stay, violent clashes between the two groups increased. Smallpox brought in by the Europeans on the First Fleet killed a large number of the Darug around Parramatta and at Sydney Cove. Those that survived this disease were denied access to their sacred places and hunting grounds, and the destruction of the Darug lifestyle and independence was enormous. Because of this some Aboriginals responded to Europeans with such violence that Governor Phillip decided to compel them to keep a greater distance from the settlement. The most famous Aboriginal resistor, Pemulwuy, was said to be responsible for every Aboriginal 'outrage' against the settlers. In 1797 he led the Georges River and Parramatta tribes in an attack on the settlement at Toongabbie.

The Development of Old Government House

Governor Phillip built a lath and plaster cottage in 1790, the remains of one of its outbuildings can still be seen. By 1799 the lath and plaster house had been damaged by termites and Governor Hunter replaced it with a two storey brick building. This is the oldest surviving section of Government House.



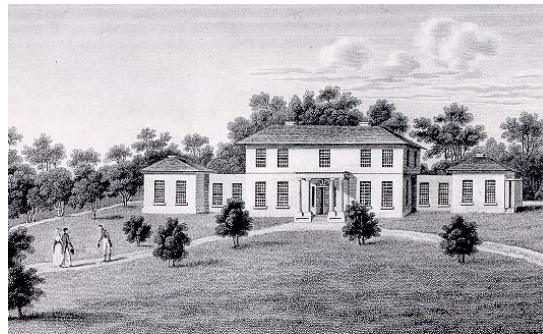
c.1798 a View of the Governor's House at Rosehill. Engraving by J Heath Governor. Phillip's cottage is at the top of the hill overlooking the convict huts. (National Trust NSW)



Government House built by Governor Hunter. 1805 Watercolour attributed to GW Evans. (Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW)

Between 1812 and 1818 Governor Macquarie made many additions to the house. These included demolishing the old outbuildings, doubling the size of the central block, building the north and south pavilions with linking colonnades, a new gatehouse, a laundry, a large stable, a pigeon house and even rabbit hutches, cages for the pet emus and a treehouse and bark hut for Mrs Macquarie.

It is thought that Mrs Macquarie developed the concept for the extensions based on her uncle's house in Scotland. The Governor's Aide de Camp, Lieutenant John Watts, an amateur architect, did the drafting work except for the portico which was designed by the convict architect Francis Greenway. The Macquarie's more than tripled the size of the house. As with so many of their building projects these works were not sanctioned by the Colonial Office and were seen as being extravagant, irresponsible and self indulgent.



1819 View of the House of the Governor. Engraving published in Louis de Freycinet's Voyage Around the World Paris 1825

The house ceased to be used as a Vice-Regal residence in 1855. In 1857 the land around the house was proclaimed a public park and the house itself was leased as a boarding house. In 1901 it was obtained by the St. John's School. Extensive renovations were undertaken by the government in 1909 and it was leased to the King's School.

In March 1967 the house was vested in the National Trust.

THE MACQUARIE PERIOD (1810-1821)



Governor Lachlan Macquarie Oil portrait attributed to John Opie c1805 (Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW)

Lachlan Macquarie was the fifth Governor of the colony he was the first military Governor, after a series of naval officers, of the Colony of New South Wales. Accompanied to NSW in 1810 by his own regiment, he was the last Governor to have full autocratic powers. Macquarie and the 73rd. Regiment that he brought with him replaced the rebellious New South Wales regiment known as the “Rum” Corp that had mutinied against Governor Bligh.

Stirring the pot

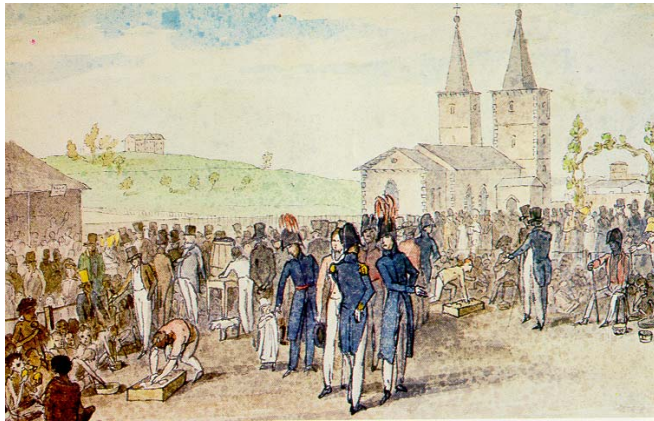
The new Governor made himself unpopular with some of the wealthy and powerful members of the colony. Macquarie attempted to shift the balance of power by encouraging emancipists (convicts who had seen out their sentence) to take responsible positions in colonial society by offering them official positions and generous land grants. These efforts offended and outraged free settlers and some of the local clergy such as the Reverend Samuel Marsden. The social and political bickering and power plays that resulted divided the community and reduced Macquaries support amongst the colonial elite.

Aboriginal relations

Governor Macquarie’s fatherly approach to the rights, responsibilities and care of the colony’s poorer and less powerful inhabitants extended to a lesser degree to the local Aborigines. As a man of his times he wanted to offer them the “benefits “of civilisation by providing Aboriginal children with a white education. The Native Institution was set up in 1815. Children entering at age 7 would not be allowed to rejoin their family until they reached 14 for girls and 16 for boys.

To sell the idea of the Native Institution to the Aborigines he organised what he called a ‘Public Conference with the Natives of New South Wales’ in December 1814 and told them bluntly that they could only see their children once a year at these annual conferences. He wooed them with food and drink and offered them farming grants that they had to apply for, rewarding them for pro-European attitudes. These early attempts at assimilation could not compensate for the massive loss of hunting grounds and traditional land that the local tribes were experiencing at the hands of land hungry farmers and graziers. After a series of skirmishes and pressure from outlying settlers, Macquarie used martial law in 1816 to destroy Aboriginal resistance. Any Aborigine sighted in the vicinity of white properties was shot or captured.

Later that same year, Macquarie made a proclamation stating that he would again grant land to Aborigines who were ‘inclined to be regular settlers’, the first official recognition of Aboriginal rights to own land. Two Aboriginal men Nurrangingy and Colebee who had acted as guides for the government were granted land, they chose their grant on the traditional lands of the South Creek tribe to which Nurrangingy belonged. This grant including the land around it became known as Black Town.



Augustus Earle, The Annual Meeting of the Native Tribes at Parramatta New south Wales - The governor meeting them: Watercolour (Australian National Library, Canberra)

Macquarie and his wife sought to establish good relationships with the Aborigines. In January 1817 the Governor received an unexpected visit from a group of 51 men, women and children from the Mulgoa and South Creek tribes. Under the direction of Elizabeth Macquarie they were entertained in the Governors Domain with breakfast and dinner and picnicked with the 17 children from the Native Institution.

MACQUARIE'S LETTER TO BATHURST ON THE MILITARY CAMPAIGN AGAINST ABORIGINES (4th April 1817)

The Measures, which I had deemed it advisable to pursue in respect to Quelling and Subduing the hostile Spirit of Violence and Rapine, which the black Natives or Aborigines of this Country had for a Considerable time past Manifested against the white Inhabitants; I have had much pleasure in reporting to Your Lordship that the Measures I had then and have Subsequently adopted have been attended with the desired Effect, and that all Hostility on both Sides has long since Ceased; the black Natives living now peaceably and quietly in every part of the Colony, Unmolested by the White Inhabitants.

(Historical Records of Australia, Volume 9 p342)

NEWSPAPER REPORTS ON THE NATIVE INSTITUTION

On 13 December 1814 the Sydney Gazette in reference to the Native Institution wrote:

At a tender age it affords to the children an asylum against the distressing wants they feel, more especially in June, July August when the weather is cold, the woods afford them little or no food, and they become a prey to many loathsome diseases which poverty entails upon a human frame. The kangaroo has almost disappeared about the Settlements; the opossum, long substituted as their chief dependence, has at length become as scarce; the roots of the earth are by nature too sparingly administered to constitute anything like dependence to them; and the tribes of each district dare not encroach upon any other. In the summer those of the coast subsist by fishing; but in the winter only for the occasional aid they derive from us, their situation would be equally miserable: And whence have those evils originated, but in the clearing of the immense forests which formerly abounded in the wild animals they lived upon?

Reporting on the second Conference and feast on the 28th of December 1816, where 179 Aborigines attended the small parade of the children from the Native Institution, the reporter wrote:

It was grateful to the bosom of sensibility to trace the degrees of pleasure which the chiefs manifested on this occasion. Some clapped the children on the head, and one in particular turning round towards the governor, with emotion exclaimed 'Governor – that will make a good Settler – that's my Pickaninny!' – and some of their females were observed to shed tears of sympathetic affection at seeing the infant and hapless offspring of their deceased friends so happily sheltered and protected by British benevolence.

LETTER REQUESTING SUPPLY OF FOOD AND WINE FOR THE 'NATIVE FEAST'

*Colonial Secretary's
Office
22nd December 1821*

Sir

I have in command from His Excellency the Governor to service you will provide for the Native Feast at Parramatta on the 28th Inst. for the undermentioned articles calculated for an assemblage of 300 persons (big).

*Loaves of Bread
Potatoes
Lemons or Limes for Punch*

*Mr F Oakes
Supt [superintendent] of Factory
Parramatta*

Morality and glory

Macquarie wanted to make the penal colony of NSW more respectable. Beautifying the towns with grand architecture and town planning was part of his scheme to inspire moral behaviour. Governor Macquarie travelled throughout NSW inspecting new areas, planning new towns, granting land, encouraging exploration and commissioning new buildings and roads. For many of his projects his wife Elizabeth's consultation was crucial to the planning and style of various institutions such as St John's Church, the Female Orphan School, the Female Factory and the Sydney Domain.

Macquarie also placed his name on almost everything he commissioned from towns to monuments, leaving a permanent marker to his personal glory. He was criticised for using so many convicts on large public works and not assigning them to settlers.



Female Orphan School, engraving Joseph Lycett, c1822 (National Trust NSW)

The fall

Growing unrest among free settlers and dissatisfaction with their colonial status led to the Colonial Secretary, Lord Bathurst, establishing a commission of inquiry. John Thomas Bigge was sent to report on Macquarie's handling of convict, judicial, constitutional, economic and other matters. Bigge's report was a record of colonial extravagances and a political disaster for Macquarie.



John Thomas Bigge watercolour by Thomas Uwins 1819
(Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW)

In 1822 after handing over to his successor Sir Thomas Brisbane, Macquarie and his wife left the colony. Soon Governor Brisbane, as Macquarie had done before him, was at odds with the Colonial Secretary.

Macquarie died in 1824 and is buried on the Isle of Mull in Scotland.

PRE-VISIT RESOURCE MATERIAL – PROFILES

ELIZABETH MACQUARIE - wife of Governor Macquarie

Personal Details

- Elizabeth Macquarie was born in Scotland in 1778 and was the youngest of five children. She studied art, music and French at school and had interests in landscaping, architecture, agriculture and carpentry.
- Governor Macquarie was her distant, older cousin and a widower when they married on November 3rd 1807. In 1808 she gave birth to a daughter, named after Macquarie's first wife Jane Jarvis but she died in the same year. She suffered five miscarriages in three and a half years in Sydney by 1813 and her only child Lachlan, was born in Sydney in 1814.



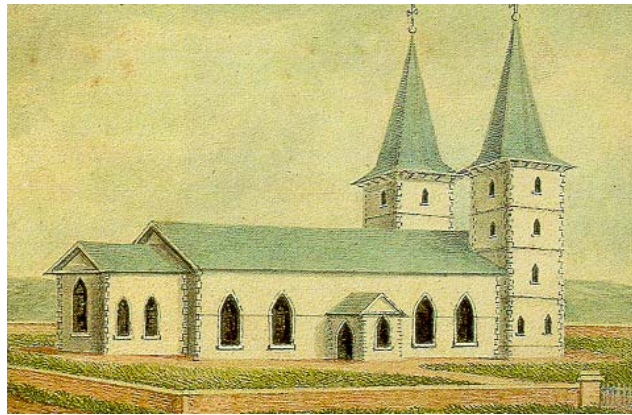
Elizabeth Macquarie . Watercolour by Richard Read senior c 1819
Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery)



Lachlan Macquarie junior. 1823
Watercolour by Richard Read senior
(Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW)

- As the wife of the Governor she showed a practical interest in the welfare of convict women, orphan children, Aborigines and the poor. She was a patron of the arts, a keen diarist and philanthropist. John Lewin, an artist who received several commissions from her, complained that she was unwilling to pay in the manner needed to encourage the fine arts. She enjoyed sketching and painting and in a crossing of the Blue Mountains - both Lewin and Mrs Macquarie took sketches.

Her love of architecture and design led her to have a major say on the design of Old Government House and the gardens at Parramatta and she was involved in the planning of a Gothic style Government House and stables in Sydney. The Colonial Treasury refused to fully fund the building which meant that only the stables were built. These stables are now the Conservatorium of Music. She chose the design for the Orphan School at Parramatta and many claim that Elizabeth's influence on the architectural taste and development of the colony was major. An example of this at Parramatta is the design of the spires on St Johns Church.



St John's Church painted by Mrs Macquarie c1819(Colonial Records Office)

She and Governor Macquarie returned to Scotland in 1822 and after her husband's death in 1824, Elizabeth continued to campaign on behalf of her husband's reputation. She had the sorrow of seeing her son live a wasteful life of drink and idleness in Scotland, but died before witnessing his total decline and death when he was 31 years old.

Various Opinions

Primary sources referring to Mrs Macquarie offer a range of opinions as to her character.

- Neighbours of the Macquaries and Old Government House, Jane Cox and Elizabeth Macarthur found her to be 'plain and sensible, amiable, benevolent and good'.

The powerful men of the colony found Elizabeth to be strong willed and difficult, probably because she used her intelligence and power. Surgeon James Mitchell fancied she preferred the title of Governor than 'Governoress'. The artist John Lewin dubbed her 'Dame' Macquarie and found her prone to flattery. Ellis Bent the Judge Advocate described her meals as mean and said she lacked the knack to make people feel relaxed. The Reverend Samuel Marsden also described her as an uncomfortable hostess who was intolerant of any who crossed her path, as much an autocrat as her husband.

Excerpts from letters referring to Mrs Macquarie

I expect you will have a letter from Mrs Macquarie inquiring after the Arts which she greatly affects but has not the heart or soul to pay for anything in that liberal manner that the fine arts require to encourage them. You was a prudent young man in praising the Government to Mrs Macquarie and I assure you she was not a little pleased with your flattering, indeed a good word is never lost, it signifies not when or where spoken or at what distance it is sure to reach and the further the distance the greater the pleasure

(John Lewin to Alexander Huey 7th November 1812)

We yesterday dined at Government House, at a farewell dinner given to Colonel and Mrs Paterson. It was but stupid. Mrs Macquarie has not the art of making people feel happy and comfortable around her. There were in all seventeen persons present. Mrs Macquarie's dinners are as much too small as the dinners usually given in the Colony are too profuse.

(Ellis Bent to his mother 27th April 1810)

The Governor, and his :Lady seem to be extremely happy together and are a perfect pattern of domestic tranquility, from a few things that occurred, and from what I have heard the Lady would rather be the Governor than the Goverwife.

(James Michell diary entry)

- Elizabeth Macquarie had many aspects to her personality. She was considered to be gifted with a critical intelligence and liveliness. She was strong willed, straight forward, loyal and devoted to her husband. To show her support for her husband's views on emancipation she invited 58 convicts and overseers from the Government House employment to a dinner at Parramatta to celebrate St. Patrick's day.
- Both Mrs Macquarie and her husband sought to build a good relationship with the Aboriginal people. When an unexpected group of 51 Aboriginal people turned up at Government House at Parramatta in 1917, Elizabeth turned the occasion into a picnic and hosted breakfast and lunch for them while they had a chance to be with 17 of their children from the Native Institution.

VISITORS TO THE HOUSE

ELIZA WALSH - a free settler

- Eliza arrived from England in 1819 with her sister and brother-in-law. Like many of the respectable citizens of the colony she attended church and read the Bible. She visited friends, enjoyed picnics, fishing and reading the classics.
- She had her own money, employed convicts, bought stock and was a very independent woman, who was determined to establish herself as a successful cattle farmer and landowner.

- Eliza asked Macquarie for a grant of land around Richmond. This was common for men to do but not so for females. Macquarie refused her request saying women were incapable of cultivating land and it was against the regulations to grant land to women. Despite this he granted land to female relatives of his friends but refused to do so for her.

In a letter of complaint to Commissioner Bigge who was conducting an investigation into Macquarie's running of the colony, Eliza wrote:

It does not appear altogether a just measure to exclude Ladies from making use of their money for the benefit of the Colony in a consequence of their Sex, nor can it be deemed a real objection that a Lady could not be able to conduct a Farm as well as a Gentleman.

- Eliza was the sister-in-law of Frederick Drennan who worked with Commissioner Bigge.
- Macquarie, without any instructions from the Colonial office, readily gave town leases to women, but usually resisted giving agricultural blocks to free, ex-convict and native born females on the basis of their sex. Between 1812-1821 he gave only 8 grants exceeding 100 acres to women.

In Macquarie's reply to Bigge's letter on the Eliza Walsh application he said:

I consider it bad practice (except in some extraordinary and pressing case of necessity) and very injurious to the Interest of the Colony to give grants of Land to single women. Some large tracts of Land, granted by my predecessors to women and Children many years since, remain unimproved and unprofitable.

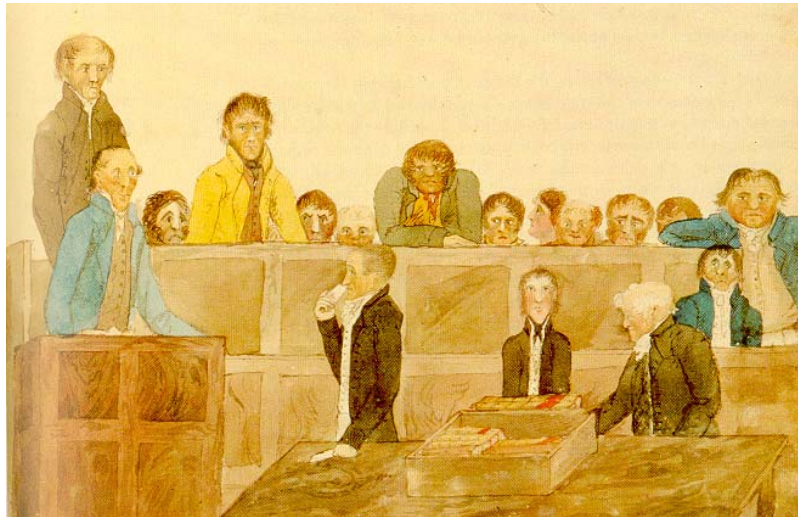
- Frustrated by Macquarie, Eliza wrote to Lord Bathurst who was in charge of Colonial Affairs in England. She finally got her land from the next governor.
- Macquarie's Scottish upbringing and military inheritance orientated his policies towards males. That he did not open the new Female Factory for convict women until February 1821 indicated its lowly place among his priorities. Given the standards of the day, it is not surprising his emancipist views talked of a society dominated by men.

THE REVEREND SAMUEL MARSDEN -Chaplain & Magistrate of Parramatta

Personal Details

- Born in Yorkshire England in 1764, Marsden was the son of a blacksmith. He had only an elementary education and when he grew up assisted his father at his work.
- When he was 21 his thoughts turned to the ministry, he received training through assistance from a clerical society and was appointed as Assistant Chaplain to NSW in 1793 when he was 29 years old. He arrived in the colony with his wife and two children, one of whom was born on board during a storm.

- Above all else, he successfully bred sturdy Suffolk sheep on his very large tracts of land around Parramatta. In fact he became the largest landowner in NSW by 1820. His work as a farmer was of great use in the early development of the wool industry.
- Tragically his wife became permanently paralysed down one side and two of his sons died during his years in NSW. Samuel Marsden died in 1838 and was buried in Parramatta.



“Philo Free Trial Sydney 1817. Watercolour by Sophia Campbell.
This picture shows Marsden at the right, bringing to trial Thomas Campbell who accused Marsden of putting money and property before his religious duties. (Private Collection)

Various Opinions

- He was a very large, heavy man with a loud voice and one description of his appearance described him as having “the face of a petulant ox” or still more cruelly looking like “a still-born gargoyle”.
- He preached hell fire sermons about punishment and sin and hated Irish Catholics with a passion. He was a bigot and knew no bounds in his hatred. He described the Irish as ‘extremely superstitious, artful, treacherous, destitute.’
- He believed the only path towards God was through punishment and he attempted to convert convicts through pain and sermons. Marsden believed that he was doing his duty, it was a cruel and intolerant age, and he was not in advance of his time.
He is quoted as saying
....A magistrate has a duty which he owes to the public as well as to the delinquents, and he is not justified in remitting punishments where the safety and well-being of the community call for their infliction.”
- He could never see emancipated convicts achieving an equal place in the colony beside the free settlers. In his evidence to the Bigge Commission he upheld his decision to allow free settlers to choose their convict labourers before the emancipates because:

I conceived that it was degrading the honest part of the society to allow them to be put upon the same level with the class that had been convicts.

When asked if Governor Macquarie had been too generous with his land grants to emancipated convicts he replied:

I do. I think that they should be given very sparingly to men who have been prisoners and who have no capital, as it tends to diminish the class of labourers and to induce that class to consider themselves as masters who should be servants.

Attitudes Towards Women

- Marsden believed that all women who entered into relationships outside of marriage were prostitutes. This view was held by most middle-class men, though less commonly by the working class. He only recognised the Church of England as the true voice of God and when he drew up a 'Female Register' in 1806 he listed all women who were married outside the Church of England such as Catholics and Jews, as 'concubines' meaning prostitutes.
- Marsden had been campaigning in England for the wives and families of transported convicts to be given free passage to NSW. He thought this would improve the morality of the convicts and help even up the balance of men and women in the colony. In 1814 the subsidised migration of the wives of convicts began.
- He urged Macquarie to build the Female Institute to house the large number of female convicts who had little or no accommodation. Many of the convict women were left to find somewhere to sleep in the town at night, living with convict men or earning their lodging through prostitution. Marsden preached of the female convict's wanton behaviour and blamed all immoral acts upon the convict and working class women. He described them as 'abandoned women'.

Marsden was not alone in his attitude to the female convicts. Lord Bathurst received complaints from other members of the colony such as one attributed to a Mr Bailey. In 1816 he wrote:

The women as bad as they are, are really to be pitied; the principal place for their reception is at Parramatta; there such as are not sent to Service go to the Factory to work and after they have done what is required of them by Government, with the exception of such as are punished by Fine, are let loose upon the Inhabitants to find a lodging where they can, there not being any Public Building to lodge them in; then it is that they pick up those Men whom I have before alluded to as procuring lodgings where and how they can; robberies are the result, the Inhabitants are continually upon the alarm, and every vicious propensity is gratified by these disgraceful means.

- Marsden did not agree with the Macquarie's view that great architecture inspired moral behaviour. Mrs Macquarie's design for the Female Orphan School was based on a

large gentleman's house and overlooked the Parramatta River. In his evidence at the Bigge Inquiry in 1821 Marsden said:

The Female Orphan School should not be like a Boarding School for Young Ladies who have Some Prospects in Life, but like a House of Industry.

Politics

- Macquarie and Marsden were enemies from the start and he had clashes with Elizabeth Macquarie over her liberal views and architectural tastes. Marsden's disagreement with Macquarie started over the appointment of trustees to the turnpike (toll) road to Parramatta. He refused to work with emancipist appointees and he wrote to England about it. He used the emancipist issue as a weapon in his fight to assert his independence from the government.
- He became the chief Anglican Clergyman in NSW and was appointed as Magistrate of Parramatta, regularly handing out severe punishments to convicts. He was eventually dismissed as Magistrate by Macquarie in 1818 but he refused to leave the Colony. He saw the colony as a place of punishment, not as a new world. He lacked vision and forgiveness and his role in the new colony was a negative one.

Attitudes towards Aborigines

- Early in Marsden's life in the colony in the 1790's, he took an orphaned Aboriginal boy into his house and called him Tristan. Tristan who was expected to reject his own people and culture, disappointed Marsden by running away from him in Rio on a trip to England when he was 13. Tristan's rejection of the schooling and religious upbringing he had received confirmed Marsden's attitude that Aborigines could not be civilised.

In evidence in the Bigge Commission in 1820, Marsden said that the Aborigines:

had no wants, they lived free and independent and thought little more of tomorrow than the fowls of the air or the beasts of the field, and put no value upon the comforts of civil life.

- 1807- he sailed to New Zealand and worked with the Maori population. He was very impressed with their work ethics and used this as a weapon against the Aboriginal people and their lifestyle. He had no respect or compassion for the Aborigines, seeing them as lazy and heathen in their beliefs. He saw no point in educating them and on his return to NSW in 1811 he established a school for Maori students and not for the original inhabitants of the land. The Maoris that Marsden brought back to N.S.W. with him may have been hostages.

GOVERNOR'S SERVANTS

MARY JELLY - the chambermaid

- Mary Jelly was an ex-convict employed by the Macquaries as a chambermaid. Her workmates included the servants brought over from Scotland by the Macquaries – Mrs Ovens the cook, Joseph Bigg the coachman and George Jarvis, Macquarie's personal assistant. Her immediate superiors who could make life unpleasant for her were Mr Fopp the starchy butler and the Jemima Fisher the housekeeper, who would have run the house with military precision.
- As a chambermaid she would get the fires going and keep them going to warm the rooms, heat the bath water, fill and empty the hip baths, empty chamberpots and attend to the fresh linen and the making of the beds. She would place bedwarmers between the sheets before the inhabitants went to bed on a cold winters evening. It was her responsibility to maintain a comfortable level of light and heat in the house and she would adjust the shutters and windows to control this.
- On March 22 1820, Mary married George Jarvis, Macquarie's Indian servant who had been with him for 25 years and was an important and respected member of the household. They were married by Reverend William Cowper in St Philip's Church in Sydney. They had a daughter on December the 19th 1820 however their baby girl died within a week on Christmas day.
- When the Macquaries left for Scotland in 1822, Mary and George accompanied them and she gave birth to a daughter on the ship on May 5.

MRS OVENS - the cook

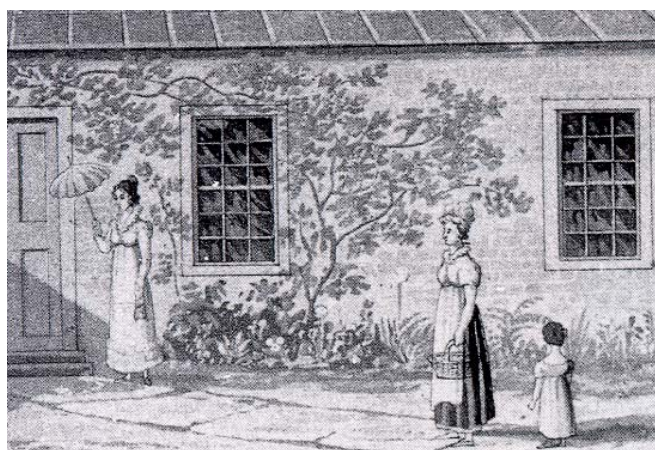
- Mrs Ovens accompanied the Macquarie's when they left England on the *Dromedary* in 1809 and travelled with them to the colony where she resumed her employment as the cook.

MARY ROUSE - the nursemaid

- Mary Rouse was born 13 January 1799, in England. Her family sailed for the NSW colony in 1801 on a ship called the Nile.
- Mary was the oldest child with six brothers and sisters. One brother drowned in the Hawkesbury River the year another sister was born in 1809. With this large family Mary had plenty of experience in dealing with small children, preparing her for the position of nursemaid to Lachlan Macquarie Jr.
- Her father was a wealthy man. Richard Rouse was the Superintendent and master builder at Parramatta. His duties included supervising the repairs and additions to Government

House. The Rouse family lived in a large house in Church Street called Rouse Hill House and had properties at Rouse Hill and Richmond Hill for cattle and horse breeding.

- Mary taught Sunday School and started living with the Macquarie family when she was 19 in 1818. Her job was solely to care for their young son Lachlan Jnr who was four at the time. Mary would have slept in the nursery with him.



Panorama of Sydney (detail) c1821, attributed to James Taylor
(Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW)

- By 28 March 1818 the four year old was tall for his age. For his birthday he was taken with sixteen other children to see the lighthouse at South Head, he also launched the cutter presented to him by Lieutenant John Watts and called the 'Elizabeth'. The party finished with the children being rowed around Garden Island towing the cutter. She travelled with the family on all outings that the boy had and in 1818 she was on board the Governor's Brig, the 'Elizabeth Henrietta' when it sailed to Newcastle for the night.
- On 22 September 1819 16 year old Theodore Bartley was employed as tutor

SERGEANT WHALAN –

Governor Macquaries' Sergeant of the body guard of light horse.

Personal Details

- Born in Middlesex in 1772. He was sentenced to seven years transportation for catching a fish on private property when he was 14 years old and still at school.
- After spending four years in the overcrowded Newgate prison, he arrived in New South Wales on the 13th of October 1791, on the ship "Albermarle" of the Third fleet. Because he could read & write he was employed as a clerk in the Government stores.
- After 16 months in the Colony, he was granted a certificate of freedom, receiving a full pardon on the condition he join the 102nd regiment of the New South Wales Corps.

- In March 1803 - Charles Whalan married Elizabeth Berry in the drawing room at Old government House. Berry was a convict who was assigned to the house as a maid. She was given away by Governor King. Berry and Whalan had seven children, son Charles was born, 17th May, 1811. Charles Jnr, became a close companion to young Lachlan Macquarie who was born in March, 1814
- Whalan served Bligh as his Orderly Sergeant. When John Macarthur, a free settler, threatened Bligh during one of their clashes, Whalan seized and broke Macarthur's sword. Bligh meanwhile locked himself in his bedroom.
- When the 102nd Regiment was recalled to England, he was transferred to the 73rd Regiment. Governor Macquarie appointed him Sergeant of his bodyguard of light horse and increased the bodyguard to ten.
- Retired from the NSW Corps on the departure of Governor Macquarie, February 1822. On his departure from the colony, Governor Macquarie granted Charles Whalan 750 acres of land at Prospect, which became his permanent home on his retirement. He named the property "Macquarie Park".
- Charles Whalan died in 1839, aged 67, He was laid to rest in a vault at St John's Cemetery, Parramatta. A hearse was used for the first time in New South Wales to transport his body.
- Whalan was protective of Governor and Mrs Macquarie and was very dutiful in his role as Sergeant.

Governor Macquarie wrote a reference dated the 12th of February 1822, describing Whalan as "...*peculiarly correct, honest, honorable and faithful, never having had one occasion to find fault with him, or in the least degree to censure his conduct...*"

I do further certify that sergeant Whalan is worthy of anything that can possibly be done for him. I accordingly most strongly recommend him to the favour, kindness and patronage of His Excellency the Governor in Chief for some position under Government."

POST VISIT ACTIVITIES

INCORPORATING THE ABORIGINAL PERSPECTIVE

Although students are encouraged to include probing questions to the characters about their views on Aborigines, more research is necessary to incorporate the Aboriginal perspective.

At the end of the program students are asked – whose perspective is missing? The Aboriginal experience of colonisation has been a significant part of Australian history yet little exists in the way of primary sources. Students take this challenge away with them and research the history of the Aboriginal people of the Parramatta area during Macquaries time to complete their article. Once they have researched the topic they can compare their findings to the views expressed by the characters from Whispers Tales and Gossip. A list of useful resources is included in the Bibliography and some primary source material is included in this package.

Issues to explore include:

- How do the attitudes and opinions expressed by the Whispers Tales and Gossip figures reflect on Aboriginal experiences of colonisation
- What were the effects of the Native Institution – and the annual meeting of the tribes on the Aboriginal people.
- Why did Macquarie have to use Marshall Law in 1816?
- What was the result of Macquaries land grants to Aborigines?
- How did the colonists make use of Aboriginal knowledge?
- What were the Aboriginal experiences of citizenship compared to other members of the colony?
- Looking at the available sources, what evidence is there of the different relationships between colonists and Aborigines?

‘Whispers, Tales and Gossip’
EVALUATION FORM
Education Program, Old Government House

School / Institution: _____

Date of Visit: _____ AM / PM Number of Students: _____

Teacher: _____ Class Year / Level: _____

1 Did you receive the 2005 National Trust school programs booklet? Yes / No

2. Where did you find out about this program? Please circle

2005 booklet have been before recommended by others

Other: _____

2. Were the students briefed at school prior to this visit? Yes / No

3. If yes, were the pre-visit materials used and were they useful? Yes/ No

Please comment: _____

4. Did the students have pre-prepared questions to ask the characters? Yes / No

5. Was the slide introduction an effective pre-amble to the program? Yes / No

Any comments? _____

6. What did you consider to be the best aspect of the program? _____

7. What did you consider to be the weakest aspect of the program? _____

8. Will there be a debriefing of the program following this visit? Yes/ No

9. What other activities or locations did you include in today’s excursion? _____

10. Any other comments _____

Thank you for your assistance for the evaluation of our education program.

Updated 16/03/05