INFORMATION SHEET ON TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

The following has been compiled to assist with your travel plans. It is not exhaustive but we hope it gets you started with tips on how to get to the venue, where to stay, how to stay in touch with us, and where to eat.

Getting acquainted with Parramatta
If you’re not familiar with Parramatta, it might help to know it’s one of the major metropolitan cities of Sydney. It’s a vibrant, bustling city with fantastic parks and restaurants, a diverse population, and a richly documented history. It’s also a popular film location – try Crownies, Cedar Boys, Little Fish and The Combination for starters.

The CBD is 24 kilometres or 30 minutes by car (on a good traffic day) from the Sydney CBD. It’s also accessible by bus, train and ferry.

For more information about Parramatta please see the Discover Parramatta website. History buffs might also like to download the Digimacq app.

The retreat venue (and how to get there)
The Female Orphan School (Building EZ), our Retreat venue, is located on the Parramatta South Campus, which is approximately 3 kilometres or 10 mins by car from the Parramatta CBD and 18 minutes by bus. There are a number of ways to reach the campus. Public transport options include bus, train and ferry. (This information is also available in the attached Transport Parramatta PDF.) The Visitor Information page on the Female Orphan School site includes maps and timetables for traveling to the campus and we will also provide summaries of the transport options closer to the time of the Retreat.

Accommodation (and related daily travel considerations)
As you will know from the Information Package and Call for Applications flyer in 2015 all participants will need to organise their own accommodation for ‘Creative Ecologies’. This is to ensure everyone’s individual needs are met and to maximise your comfort. The closest accommodation venue is UWS Village (Parramatta), 650 metres from the Female Orphan School. Accommodation is based on a 6-bed, share apartment configuration. (A Facebook page has been set up to help people organise apartment shares. See the end of this flyer.) You could also try airbnb. Some of the properties listed here are quite close to campus. In staying close to campus, the only thing to bear in mind is that immediate food options are limited. You will need to bring food with you, order in (Village guests receive discounts with Menulog), or catch the bus into Parramatta CBD (approx. 10 mins) to ensure you are well nourished.

For those interested in staying closer to Parramatta CBD you might like to try some of the following properties. We recommend finding somewhere close to the train station. The only caveat with staying in the CBD is that you will need to utilise public transport or your own vehicle to travel to and from the Parramatta South Campus, which is approximately 10 minutes drive from Parramatta Station. There is a bus that runs from Parramatta CBD to the University (10 mins bus + 8 mins walk). You can also walk in 35
minutes but there are some major roads to navigate. The upside is that if you stay in the city you will also be close to many fantastic restaurants, parks and walks.

Or you may prefer to stay in the Sydney CBD. UWS Parramatta can be reached by train from Central Station (with one change at Clyde Station) in 37 mins travel time. Use the Trip Planner and type in destination ‘Rydalmere Station’ to see train options. The station is adjacent to UWS Parramatta South campus. For accommodation options in the Sydney CBD try searching Hostel World, which provides complete listings, reviews and a booking service. Rooms are available here, if you're lucky, for less than $50 per night or $75 with ensuite.

Using the Parramatta Campus as our location has allowed us to keep our costs to a minimum and we hope that those of you who stay in the Parramatta CBD or in Sydney city will not mind the small commute.

**Meals**
Morning tea, afternoon tea and lunch will be provided on the days of the Retreat. Dietary requests can be noted when paying online. Depending on interest we will also organise a group dinner, probably on day 2.

This means you will need to find your own breakfast and dinner for at least two out of the three nights. Those staying at UWS Village will have more limited options (see above) while those staying in the Parramatta CBD can tickle their fancy at any one of the more than 180 restaurants, cafes, eateries and bars.

**Staying in touch**
To help you connect with each other prior to the Retreat – to organise lifts, shared accommodation or just to say hello – we have created a Creative Ecologies 2015 Facebook page. Please follow the link or search ‘Creative Ecologies 2015’ and request to join. If you have any troubles just email Rachel r.morley@uws.edu.au.

If you have any questions, please email Melinda Jewell m.jewell@uws.edu.au.