

## Pre-visit activity – ‘Perish or Prosper’ at Hyde Park Barracks Museum

### Different perspectives of Sydney around 1820

By the 1820s Governor Macquarie had been in charge of the colony for a decade. He had worked hard to bring order and stability to the colony after years of convict transportation and political instability. In particular he had worked to organise the streets and roads of the colony, giving them official names and improvements where necessary. Macquarie also built the Hyde Park Barracks to control the convict population more effectively.

Many artists were producing artworks of the colony at this time and the engraving *Panoramic views of Port Jackson*, ca. 1821 – two sections of which are shown here – was created by Major James Taylor. In the first panel you can see Sydney Harbour and what is now Circular Quay, looking north from Observatory Hill. In the second panel you are looking east over the town of Sydney. Taylor was commissioned by Governor Macquarie to produce this artwork; to commission something means that you request that it is done, specify what is required, and will often have the final say in how it is finished.

*The Sydney Gazette* was a newspaper produced between 1803 and 1842. It reported on many aspects of life in the colony – the arrival of ships, what goods were for sale, as well as official business such as court matters and government announcements. The extract supplied is from 4<sup>th</sup> of August, 1821.

The *Report of the Commissioner of inquiry into the state of the colony of New South Wales* – or ‘Bigge Report’ – was published by John Thomas Bigge in 1822. The extract provided here is from an edited copy, published in 1971.

### Enquiry question: What impression of colonial Sydney is conveyed in these three sources?

#### Sources:

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**Source 1:** *Panoramic views of Port Jackson*, ca. 1821. Drawn by Major James Taylor, engraved by R. Havell & Sons.

Retrieved from State Library of New South Wales: [http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/events/exhibitions/2012/macquarie/14\\_return/image08.html](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/events/exhibitions/2012/macquarie/14_return/image08.html)

**Source 2:** *Sydney Gazette: and New South Wales Advertiser*, August 4, 1821.

Retrieved <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/2180407?searchTerm=murder&searchLimits=1-title=3||1-decade=182||1-year=1821> September, 2014.

**Source 3:** *The Evidence to the Bigge reports: New South Wales under Governor Macquarie*, selected and edited by John Ritchie (1971), p.38.



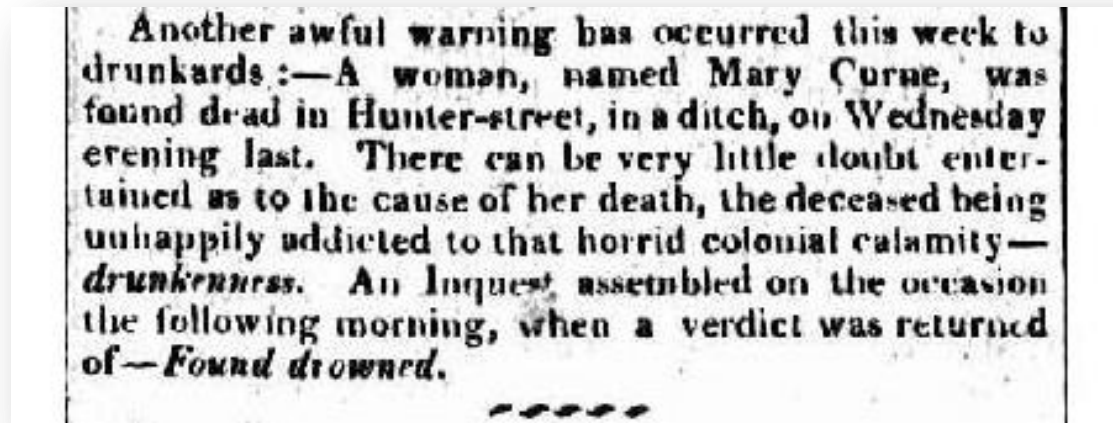
**Panel 1:** *Panoramic views of Port Jackson*, ca. 1821. Drawn by Major James Taylor, engraved by R. Havell & Sons. Retrieved from State Library of New South Wales



**Panel 2:** *Panoramic views of Port Jackson*, ca. 1821. Drawn by Major James Taylor, engraved by R. Havell & Sons. Retrieved from State Library of New South Wales



**Source 2:** *Sydney Gazette: and New South Wales Advertiser*, August 4, 1821, p. 3. Retrieved from [www.trove.nla.gov.au](http://www.trove.nla.gov.au) September, 2014.



Another awful warning has occurred this week to drunkards:—A woman, named Mary Curne, was found dead in Hunter-street, in a ditch, on Wednesday evening last. There can be very little doubt entertained as to the cause of her death, the deceased being unhappily addicted to that horrid colonial calamity—*drunkenness*. An Inquest assembled on the occasion the following morning, when a verdict was returned of—*Found drowned*.

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The question is being asked to Major George Druitt, Chief Engineer of the Colonial Establishment in New South Wales at the time.

**Date: 27 October 1819**

*Q. Have you observed the occupations of the Govt. Convicts when they are let out of the Barrack on a Sunday?*

*A. I observe that they run immediately to the Part of the Town called the Rocks, where every species of Debauchery & villainy is Practised.*