



**PRESENTATION
SISTERS
WAGGA WAGGA
SESQUICENTENARY**

**150 YEARS
KILDARE
TO
WAGGA WAGGA**



**We invite you to join us as we celebrate the
sesquicentenary (150 years) since our foundation
29th May 1874 - 29th May 2024**

**Celebrating
150
Years**

Program of Events

Thursday 30th May

Mayoral Reception 5.30pm-7.30pm
Civic Centre
Invited Guests only

Friday 31st May

Schools celebration - Sisters and
student reps from Presentation
Heritage Schools.
To be held at Kildare Catholic
College, Mount Erin cemetery and
convent gardens
Invited Guests only

Saturday 1st June

1pm-5pm OPEN AFTERNOON FOR ALL
Formalities, prayer ritual and blessing of
commemorative plaque to be placed in
the chapel. Visits to Mt Erin Chapel,
Heritage Centre and Erin Earth Gardens.
Afternoon tea in the boarding school
dining room and old convent dining room.
For catering arrangements, would you
please register your name and number of
guests, no later than Friday 10th May to
the email address below

**RSVP by
10th May**

sesquicentenary1874@gmail.com

PRESENTATION SISTERS • W A G G A W A G G A

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we live and work.

11 April 2024



WAGGA WAGGA CELEBRATES 150 YEARS OF SERVICE THE PRESENTATION SISTERS

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the Presentation Sisters to open schools in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga.

At the invitation of Bishop Lanigan, five Irish Sisters arrived in Wagga Wagga on 29 May 1874 to take up temporary accommodation in the vacated presbytery in Church St and open their first school in the stables the very next day.

Congregation Leader Sr Margaret Barclay said that during that time the Sisters' main focus was on teaching.

"The Sisters taught children and adults however the Sisters were available to people living in poverty around them to provide whatever support they could offer," Sr Margaret said.

"After two and a half years of teaching and working in the community Mount Erin Convent was built by the Catholic community and the Sisters and school relocated to that site."

Today that school is known as Kildare Catholic College, situated in Coleman Street, Wagga Wagga.

Sr Margaret also said between 1874 and 1986, 250 Sisters responded to invitations to go to parishes to provide primary and secondary education.

"From our convent in Wagga Wagga our Sisters went out to Victoria, Hay, Young, Queensland, Western Australia, the ACT, and communities other across the Riverina and Sydney, to provide education in those communities."

To mark the importance of the Sesquicentenary, Clr Dallas Tout is hosting a Mayoral Reception on 30 May 2024, in honour of the Sisters and the contribution they have made to the wider Wagga Wagga community.

Sr Margaret said that the Sisters will be hosting a community gathering on Saturday, 1 June 2024 at Mt Erin Convent and gardens.

"This gathering is open to everyone who would like to join the Sisters from 1:00pm to 5:00pm. There will be a number of activities for people to participate in and ErinEarth and our Heritage Centre will also be open for people to visit."

Sr Margaret said that an *Avenue of Trees* is being planted along Bourke Street to commemorate the route taken by the Sisters from Mangoplah into Wagga Wagga in 1874.

"The trees are a gift from the Presentation Sisters to thank the Wagga Wagga community for its support over the past 150 years and to express our commitment to continuing care for the Earth," she concluded.

Media Enquiries:

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Presentation Sisters Wagga Wagga

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