

Wagga Court House



The Court House is one of Wagga's oldest and most beautiful buildings, and has a colourful history.

- Wagga first held Courts of Petty Sessions (known today as Local Court) in 1847. So this year, we celebrate 160 years of justice in Wagga.

- With its massive square clock tower, belltower, decorative iron work and cedar joinery, the current Federation style Court House designed by Walter Vernon, is considered one of the finest of its type in Australia.
- The current Wagga Court House, at the corner of Fitzmaurice and Sturt Streets, is the fourth for the city. The first courthouse was built in 1847. The second (in 1856) and third (1862) were completed by Wagga builders Charles Hardy and Thomas Hodson. Charles Hardy also finished the fourth court house, which is still used today, in 1902.
- Today the building houses regular Local and District Court sittings and Supreme Court once a year. There are two Local Court magistrates based at the Court House, as well as the Court Registrar and a large support staff.
- James Kelly, younger brother of the infamous Ned Kelly, was also sentenced to 10 years jail at Wagga Court House in 1877 after being convicted of stealing two horses.
- Thomas Reilly is believed to be the last man hanged in Wagga, on 6 November 1889, aged 20. Reilly pleaded guilty to murdering his boss Christian Epple, who worked for Cobb and Co. coaches. Reilly shot him in his tent on Wagga Common and was finally captured after a long horse chase. He was sentenced to death by hanging, near a wall that still stands in the Court House precinct.

Did you know?

Wagga builder Charles Hardy also built the Museum's Historic Council Chambers building, the Wagga railway station and several other significant buildings in the city.