

Museum of the Riverina launches new digital exhibition *The Incredible Feminist of Wagga Wagga*

The Museum of the Riverina's new digital exhibition *The Incredible Feminist of Wagga Wagga* was officially launched online today.

This digital exhibition tells the story of the founding and early years of the Wagga Wagga Women's Health Centre (WWWHC) and explores a key moment in the push for women's rights in Wagga Wagga.

Museum Assistant Collections and Program Officer Sophie Magnusson, who curated the exhibition, said by using a mix of creative storytelling in a comic book style alongside more traditional exhibition curation, *The Incredible Feminist of Wagga Wagga* is designed to be both engaging and informative.

"I wanted to tell this story in a creative and empowering way that captured the feelings of frustration and the struggles of the women fighting for their rights," Ms Magnusson said.

"This resulted in the fictionalised comic book style introduction, followed by a more traditional facts and objects-based approach in the later sections of this digital exhibition."

Speaking on the exhibition and the story it tells, a founding member of the WWWHC Jan Roberts said, "Unless we record our history or story we don't know where we come from and where we're going.

"I think it represents quite a remarkable journey in our community that we have the women's health centre. It's not just support, it's empowerment."

The exhibition also represents efforts at the Museum of the Riverina to increase the reach and diversity of exhibitions it produces.

Museum Education and Public Programs Officer Angus Cawdell-Smith said digital exhibitions allow the museum to tell stories that can be accessed globally.

"Developing online exhibition gives the museum the opportunity to tell more of Wagga Wagga's stories, as we're not restricted by space and the costs associated with mounting physical exhibitions," Mr Cawdell-Smith said.

In celebration of the launch of *The Incredible Feminist of Wagga Wagga* digital exhibition, the Museum of the Riverina will be holding a free moderated panel discussion and Q&A event on Saturday 21 September at 2PM at the Museum's Botanic Gardens site.

The panel will include Jan Roberts and Mary Kidson, key figures in the founding of the Wagga Wagga Women's Health Centre, representatives from the Wagga Wagga Women's Health Centre and the exhibition's curator Sophie Magnusson.

Here is a link to the exhibition: <https://museumriverina.shorthandstories.com/ca61d04b-b756-4f3e-add8-a13ef2795823/index.html>

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Media Opportunity

What: Hear about the Museum of the Riverina's new digital exhibition, which explores a key moment in the push for women's rights in Wagga Wagga.

Who: Curator Sophie Magnusson & WWWHC founding member Jan Roberts.

When: Thursday 5 September 2024 at **9.30am**.

Where: Museum of the Riverina – Historic Council Chambers, Cnr Baylis and Morrow Streets, Wagga Wagga.

Contact 6926 9190 or media@wagga.nsw.gov.au

About Wagga Wagga City Council

Wagga Wagga City Council serves more than 68,000 residents across an area of 4825 square kilometres with an overall budget of \$240 million.

The organisation manages more than \$2.48 billion in assets, including a 2300km road network, Wagga Wagga Airport, Livestock Marketing Centre, and the Oasis Aquatic Centre.

Council also provides important community facilities such as Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, Wagga Wagga City Library, Museum of the Riverina, and Civic Theatre, as well as maintaining countless parks, playgrounds, and sporting facilities to ensure Wagga maintains its reputation as 'the City of Good Sports'.

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