

## Museum launches three new intriguing exhibitions.

The Museum of the Riverina has launched three new exhibitions at its Historic Council Chambers site for residents and visitors to enjoy over the summer.

The three exhibitions: the *2023 Bald Archy Prize*, *Tom Castro: The man who never was*, and *Lazy Days in Wagga Wagga*, opened on Friday 22 December.

The internationally known *Bald Archy Prize* has come home to the Museum of the Riverina after being exhibited across NSW.

Showcasing the best satirical portraiture from across Australia, the 2023 tour is a delight that encourages its audience to have a laugh.

Poking fun at Australia's biggest figures from sportsmen to politicians, it encapsulates the irreverent, larrikin Australian spirit in a way that appeals to people from all walks of life.

Wagga Wagga is the final stop of the *2023 Bald Archy Prize* tour, the exhibition will close on Sunday 28 January 2024, so make sure you don't miss out!

*Tom Castro: The man who never was* is inspired by the story of Wagga Wagga butcher Tom Castro, who in 1865 created history claiming to be the long-lost heir to the Tichborne family's Hampshire estates.

Castro unwittingly set in motion one of the greatest cases of disputed identity in recent criminal history.

Man, myth, would-be baronet, peep show oddity and pauper, who was Tom Castro, and did he ever really exist?

The Museum of the Riverina brings this amazing story to life with this evocative exhibition which includes Nathan Hughes' painting *The Great Tichborne Trials*, alongside objects from the Museum's Tichborne collection.

*Lazy Days in Wagga Wagga* presents a curated collection of photographs taken over a century of summers in our wonderful city.

Discover how locals and visitors spent their leisure time keeping cool, whether relaxing in the shade of a willow or by taking a plunge in the Murrumbidgee River.

Experience everyday Aussies enjoying picnics, games, dancing and larking around, with each photo brought to life through the addition of colour.

Manager Museum Luke Grealy says the Museum is excited to be presenting these three exhibitions over the summer.

"The exhibitions have something for everyone; the *Bald Archy Prize* is a long-running and well-known exhibition that features identities we all know," Mr Grealy said.

"The Tom Castro case is intriguing to those who already know the story, or are yet to learn about it, and *Lazy Days* features images of Wagga Wagga that locals can relate to, especially this time of year when the weather is hot."

The Museum of the Riverina - Historic Council Chambers site is located on the corner of Baylis Street and Morrow Street, Wagga Wagga (alongside the Civic Centre forecourt).

Open Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 4pm, Sunday 10am to 2pm, closed Mondays, entry is free.

For more information visit [museumriverina.com.au](http://museumriverina.com.au)

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## Media enquiries:

Please contact the [media@wagga.nsw.gov.au](mailto:media@wagga.nsw.gov.au) group inbox if you would like to arrange to speak with a Museum of the Riverina staff member and visit the exhibitions for photos or footage.

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## Exhibitions

### *2023 Bald Archy Prize*

22 December 2023 - 28 January 2024

Museum of the Riverina Historic Council Chambers site

### *Tom Castro: The man who never was*

From 22 December 2023

Museum of the Riverina Historic Council Chambers site

### *Lazy Days in Wagga Wagga*

From 22 December 2023

Museum of the Riverina Historic Council Chambers site

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Contact 6926 9190 or [media@wagga.nsw.gov.au](mailto: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 more than \$236M.

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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