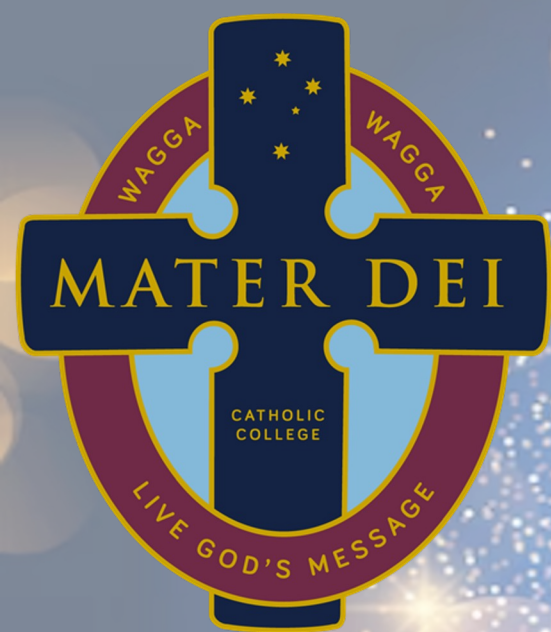




Designing and Developing a Reflection Walk

Mater Dei Catholic College
Wagga Wagga

Purpose and Context



Honouring our Founders: Nano and Edmund



The Design Phase: capturing the spirit, celebrating the story



Station 1: Oak Tree



Station 2: Mural



Station 3: Flame Sculpture



Station 4: Celtic Cross



Station 5: Wiradjuri Garden



Station 6: Religious Icons

MDCC Reflection Walk

Welcome to the MDCC Reflection Walk, honouring our Founders

Venerable Nano Nagle and Blessed Edmund Rice



Station 1: Oak Tree



Station 2: Mural



Station 3: Flame Sculpture



Station 1: Oak Tree



Station 1

Name: Oak Tree

Location: Outside the Cafe; overlooking Lake Albert

Welcome to the Mater Dei Catholic College Reflection Walk, created to capture our Marian spirit and the charisms of our Founders Venerable Nano Nagle and Blessed Edmund Rice.

We hope that you enjoy each of the six stations of the Reflection Walk. A site map has been provided at the end of each one to point pilgrims towards the next station.

Preface

In the days of the Celts, Northern Europe was covered with forests so thick it was said, that a squirrel could hop from branch to branch, from one end to the other, without touching the ground. When a tribe cleared the land for a settlement, they always left a great tree in the middle, known in Ireland as the “Crann Bethadh,” or “Tree of Life” that embodied the security and integrity of the people.

The ecology and theological metaphor of trees and water remains present in many global religious traditions. On a physical level, they serve to remind us to pay attention to the interconnectedness of the living world, if life on earth is to survive and thrive, we must nurture and protect our common home.

The Oak Tree has become known over many years as a symbol of the Presentation Community. Representing the amazing growth possible, from a single small seed. Nano's first school and community in Cove Lane (Cork) grew into a global network of Presentation People all over the world.

Found all over Ireland, they too are synonymous with the birthplace of the Christian Brothers. Oak Trees in the Bible symbolise knowledge, and providence. Their strength to endure over hundreds of years serves as a metaphor for God Himself.

We continue to rejoice in our humble beginnings, in our founder's vision, faith and courage amidst great adversity. Edmund and Nano's first trees of Christian Brothers' Communities and Presentation People all over the world. Our Oak Tree is located overlooking Lake Albert; con River Blackwater in Cork, Ireland with the water of Lake Albert in Wagga Wagga, Australia.

References: [Presentation Sisters Northern Ireland: From Acorn to Oak](#)

Prayer

Creator God of the Earth,

Nurture us with knowledge, so that may grow in your image.

Earth, teach us patience, as the plants which grow slowly,
Earth, teach us hope as the first shoots break through the soil,
Earth, teach us courage as the wild animals who protect their young,
Earth, teach us blessing as the sun which rises each day,
Earth, teach us freedom as the eagle which soars in the sky,
Earth, teach us resignation as the leaves which fall from the tree in Autumn,
Earth, teach us regeneration as the seed which sprouts in Spring,
Earth, teach us kindness as dry fields weep when rains fall,
Earth, teach us celebration as the apples come to full fruit,
Earth, teach us yearning as the rain nourishes the drought.

As we tread this earth, walk with us all the days of our lives.

Amen



Reflection Questions

- “From little things, big things grow” consider one example from your life.
- Creator God nurtures us with knowledge, so that we might prosper. How can we strengthen your communities insight?

History of the Station

On Friday 29 October 2021, College Principal Mrs Val Thomas, 2022 College Captains Amber Hallam and Oscar Mitter along with members of the Leadership Team gathered together for the planting of the Oak Tree. The blessing below was read.

Embedding Resources



NEAA
NAGLE EDUCATION
ALLIANCE OF AUSTRALIA

Our Presentation Schools' Heritage Nagle Education Alliance of Australia (NEAA)

Mater Dei is a member of [NEAA](#), an alliance of schools founded in the spirit of Venerable Nano Nagle. We are actively involved in the events and opportunities provided by NEAA for staff and students at a local and national level.

We also retain our close involvement with the Presentation Sisters through Sr Barbara Webber, the Patron of Webber House and the Wagga Presentation Congregation and their visible presence in the Mount Erin Heritage Centre and Erin Earth in Wagga. The spirit of the Sisters is also alive in members of our parent community who attended Mount Erin Day and Boarding School in Wagga.

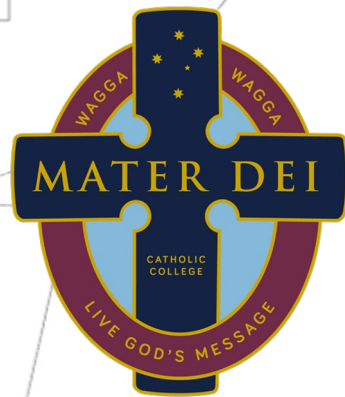
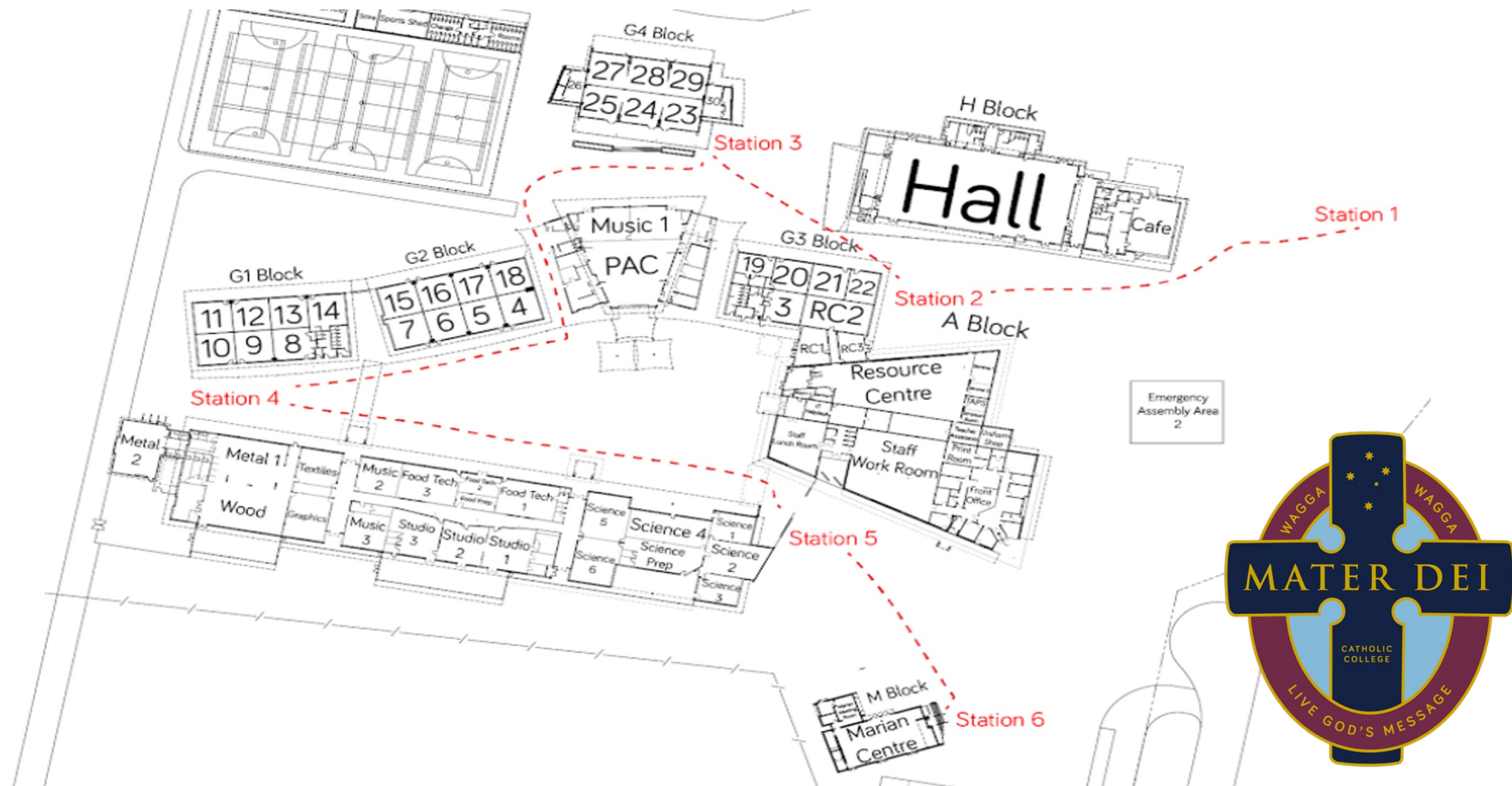


Our Christian Brothers Schools' Heritage Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA)

Mater Dei is an Associate Member of [EREA](#), an alliance of schools founded in the spirit of Blessed Edmund Rice. The College is actively involved in events and service opportunities provided by EREA.

We also directly retain our involvement with the Christian Brothers through Br Carl Sherrin, the Patron of Sherrin House and the spirit of our parents and members of our community who attended St Michael's High School in Wagga.

Walking the Way - Station placement



Station 1: The Oak Tree

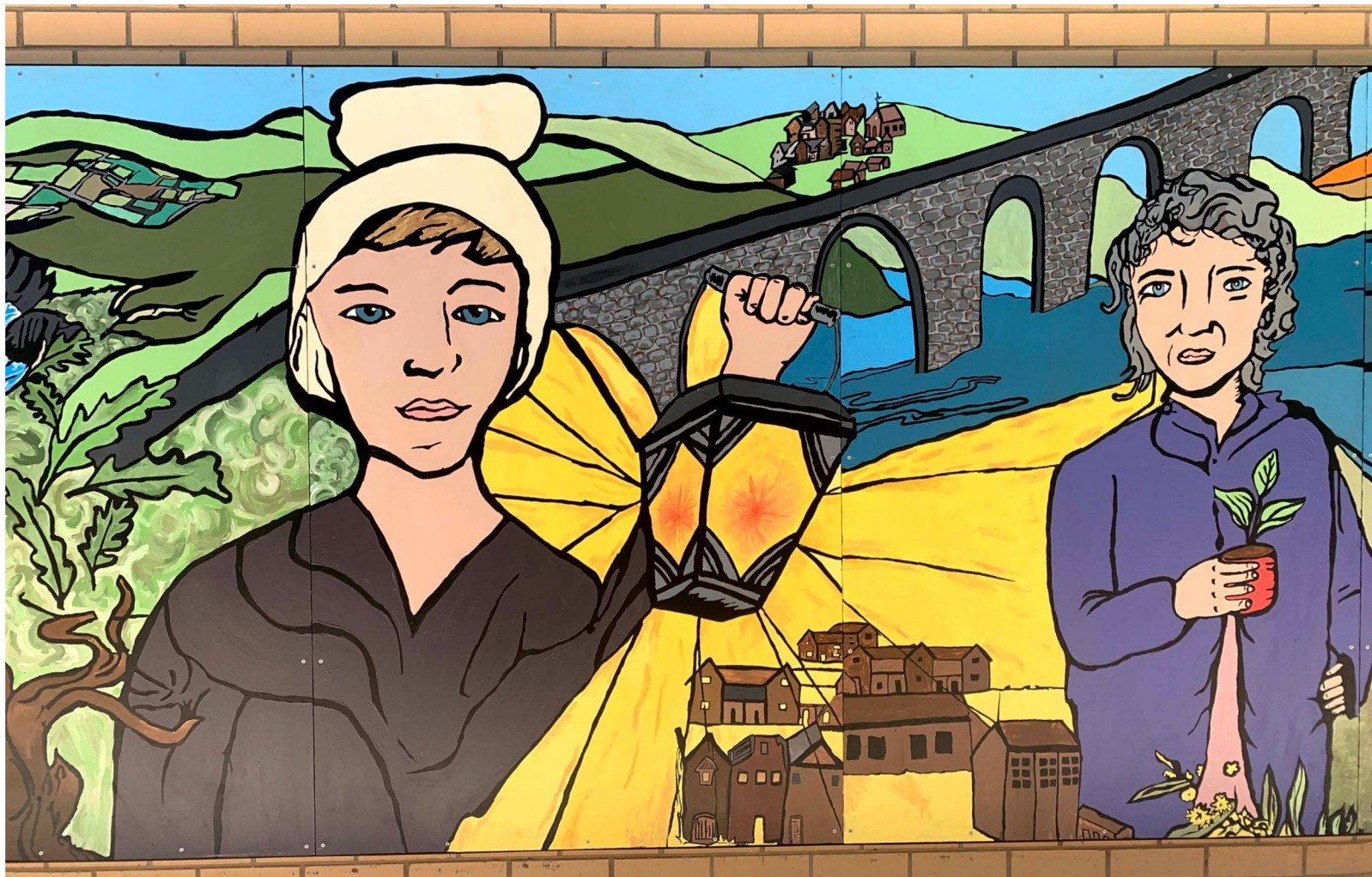




Station 2: Mural













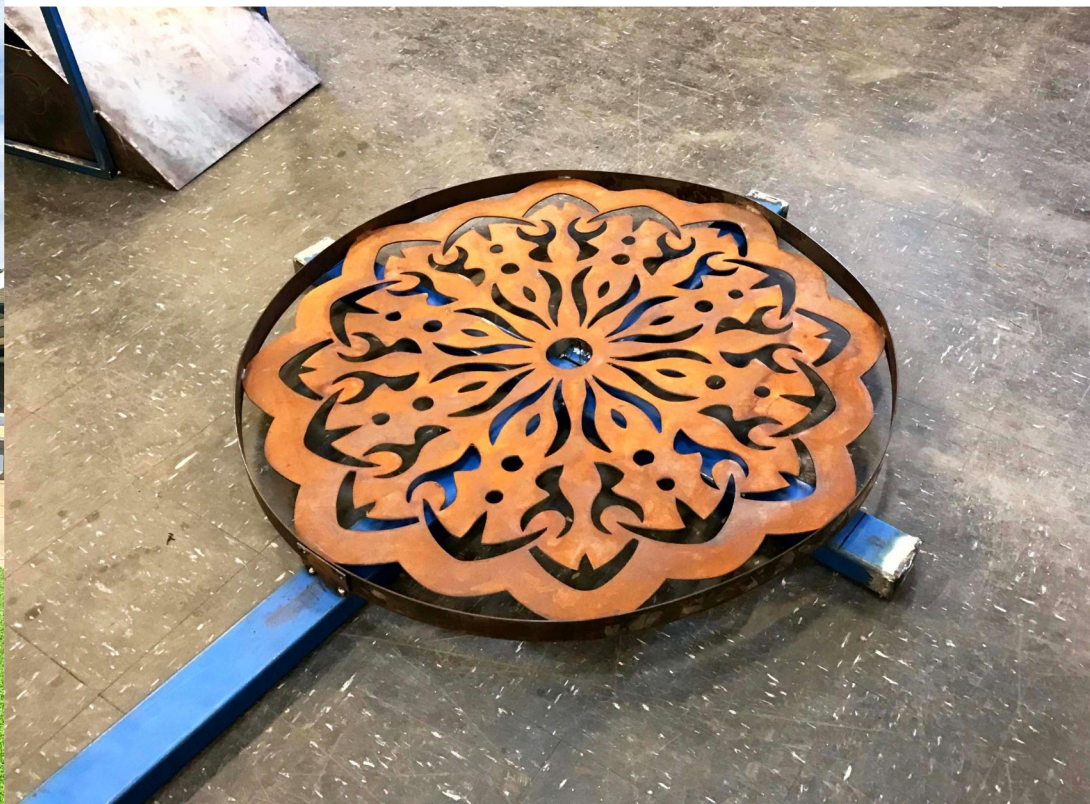
Station 3: Flame Sculpture



Station 4: Celtic Cross







Station 5: Wiradjuri Garden





Creating an Acknowledgement of Country



Embed AoC



Station 6: Religious Icons







Each school has
their own unique
history and
features.

How do you
show and tell
your story?