

20th September 57.

Dame Mary Gilmore,
9 Claremont,
99 Darlinghurst Road,
KINGS CROSS, N.S.W.

GLB:WT.

Dear Dame Mary,

You will remember that I wrote to you some time ago thanking you for establishing for us, through your generous donation of £2.2.0. a history of Wagga College for its first 100 years.

It will be therefore pleasing for you to know that the history is now well under way and we expect it to be completed by the end of next week.

Our plan is to have a double page for each 100 years commencing from the first year of the College, 1947. Fortunately I have kept a continuous scrap book myself from the day, January 9th, 1947, that I received my appointment here. The history will be so designed as to allow the librarian (it will be placed in the Library next to your portrait) to show the events of one year at a time. The book will be placed under glass for the purpose of preservation. When everything is completed I shall have a photograph taken and sent on to you.

My Staff and Students are most interested in the latest portrait of you painted by William Dobell. They regard it as an excellent work of art, and are particularly interested in it because you of all figures in Australian culture are most closely identified with our College. As a matter of fact they asked me to inquire whether it would be possible during your portraits journeys between Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne to stay here at Wagga for a few days.

The Staff wish me to pass on the message that if the portrait could be installed here for a number of days it would occupy a place of the highest honour and safety, and would be a wonderful memory to all your friends and admirers known and unknown. An invitation would be extended to the public of Wagga to come along and see it each day.

I leave the suggestion with you for your consideration.

Kindest regards and best wishes to you from Mrs. Blakemore and myself, and also from all your friends at Wagga.

Yours sincerely,


G. L. BLAKEMORE
Principal.