



AUSTRALIAN ANGLICAN
CHURCH CALENDAR

St Jude's Tumbarumba, NSW



St Jude's Tumbarumba is located in the exhilaratingly beautiful Snowy Valleys region of New South Wales. St Jude's belongs to the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn and is part of the South West Slopes Ministry District. Church services were held in the district from 1855 and the foundation stone for St Jude's was laid in 1874.

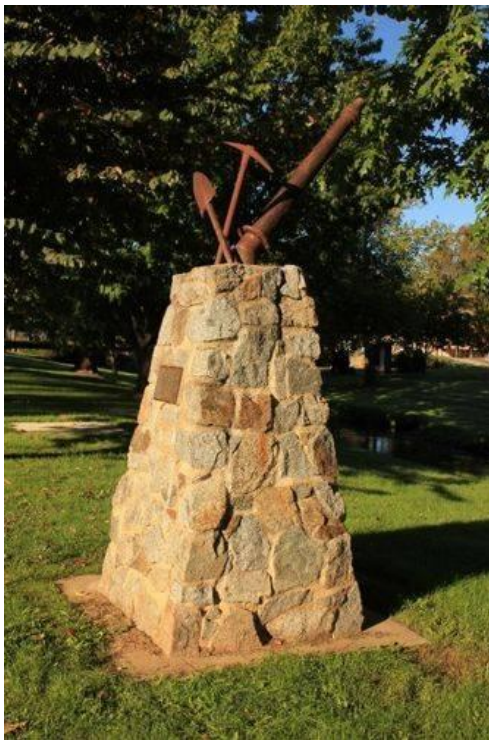




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The church's distinctive bell tower was a gift from the Martin family. Jean and Albert Martin were committed parishioners between the years 1940 and 1975. It was dedicated in 1996.

Tumbarumba means 'Mother Earth is talking' and is a significant place for the Ngarigo people being where five song lines merge. The settler community opened up the district to Westernisation when gold was discovered in the late 1850s. This monument below left is situated in the Park and commemorates miners who worked on the Tumbarumba goldfields from 1850 to 1930. Tumbarumba township was established at that time. Nowadays the area is known for its agriculture, timber production and processing, and recently as a flourishing wine region. The higher climbs with a range of temperatures make it excellent for Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Riesling.



Tumbarumba stands on the route taken by Hume and Hovell on their 1824 expedition from Sydney to Bass Strait, seeking good new grazing land. It was evidently an arduous journey, and they commented admiringly on the local indigenous people living with freedom and tenacity in a demanding environment. The explorers are commemorated by the 440 km Hume and Hovell walking track which runs between Yass and Albury, in parallel with the Snowy Valleys Way which is a picturesque alternative road for those driving between Sydney and Melbourne.



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Buddong Falls located along the Hume and Hovell Walking Track in the Tumut area of Kosciuszko National Park.



Paddy's River Dam located along the Hume and Hovell Walking Track in Bago State Forest.

Many tourists visit Tumbarumba, drawn by its natural beauty, proximity to the snowfields and a wealth of walking and cycling trails. These include the famed 'Tumbatrek', pictured below. It was pioneered in 1985 by the iconic, widely-liked Tim Fischer AC, Deputy Prime Minister at the time.





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The trek has a special purpose, to bring together community and government leaders, well away from their customary settings, to engage in creative exchange as they walk.



What an active and positive church St Jude's sounds! It seeks to open its arms to people and encourage their spiritual growth with bible study, children and youth activities, regular live music provided by local performers, family entertainment nights and its hall as a popular venue for community events. Visitors comment on the warm welcome they receive and also applaud the church's attractive hillside setting and well-maintained grounds. It is great to read all this, and we send them our compliments and good wishes.



How fortunate we are that our Calendar photographer Robin Page travels so widely and finds churches in such varied country areas! Churches like St Jude's are a pleasure to write about, first to showcase their interesting locations and then describe the lively role they play in rural communities where the ethos is to support one another and create their own rewarding activities.