



AUSTRALIAN ANGLICAN  
CHURCH CALENDAR

# St Michael & All Angels, Kingaroy QLD



September has ended, but how appropriate to write these words about St Michael and All Angels, Kingaroy, in the Octave of its Festival Day, 29th September.

Otherwise known as Kingaroy Anglican Community, this church is a feast for the eyes with its finely-crafted interior in glowing Queensland timber. Its welcoming congregation who believe all people should be valued, loved and safe and includes many Solomon Islanders who come to work in the district, makes for a special church community.

The story of the church's actual construction is linked to the origins of Kingaroy in the prosperous South Burnett farming region some 200 km north-west of Brisbane.





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Large-scale leases to run cattle in this area were taken up from the 1840s. By the 1870s the government was resuming land to sell as small farms and encourage closer settlement. The district's rich, well-watered soils suited a variety of crops and cereals. The extensive native forests gave rise to a substantial timber industry. Peanuts were first grown in the area in 1901, and Kingaroy is now famous for its production. The siloes and processing plant are pictured below, behind the church.



In the early days marketing these products raised the need for rail transport. The railway reached South Burnett in 1904, and the town named Kingaroy – it seems, the local Aboriginal word for 'hungry ants' - was established at the railhead. The township then grew quickly, with a burgeoning population, schools and significant public buildings including four churches for the main denominations.



Land for the Anglican church of St Michael and All Angels was donated by a prominent pastoralist, Arthur Youngman of 'Taabinga Station', who along with other residents contributed to the building fund. The church was designed by Colin Deighton, assistant architect of the Brisbane diocese well known for his work on a number of country Queensland churches. It cost £2,000 to build, apparently considered high.



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CHURCH CALENDAR

The builder was Jacob Bonding, a respected local craftsman. The foundation stone was laid by the Venerable Arthur Rivers, Archdeacon of Toowoomba on 10th November 1910.

The church's pitched roof and bellcote still stand out today in the Kingaroy streetscape and it is promoted to visitors as one of the town's best historic buildings. On the west side is a rose garden with a large timber cross.



St Michael and All Angels was dedicated in 1912 by the Archbishop of Brisbane, the Most Reverend St Clair Donaldson. The Brisbane Church Chronicle called the church 'one of the best wooden buildings in the Diocese' and reported that 'all the community attended this great event for the growing township'.

The inaugural vicar was the Reverend PS Wigram, who received fine gifts for the church such as an English oak altar with inset panels of angels. He also received a cross and candlesticks from Venice.

Most of the interior timber is thought to have been locally sourced and milled. The pews and pulpit are red bean wood (mahogany). The Arts and Crafts-style church has a typical cruciform plan with a steep gabled roof supported by a colonnade of timber arches. The woodwork shows great artistry, and arched windows enhance the sense of soaring space. The Queensland Government heritage register, on which the church was listed in 2010, provides further architectural details.



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Kingaroy Graphic Artist, Jeffrey Hosking has painted this image of St Michael and All Angels. (2 x 3ft. oil on panel). He writes, "this is typical of the style of work I do of residential houses with garden. Technically accurate, yet in a cheerful upbeat style."

