



AUSTRALIAN ANGLICAN  
CHURCH CALENDAR

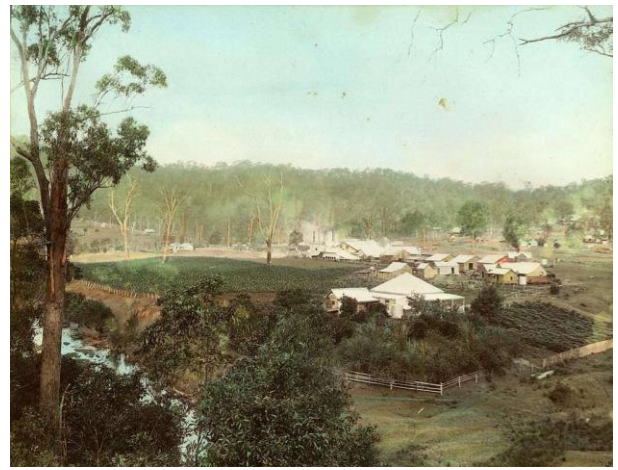
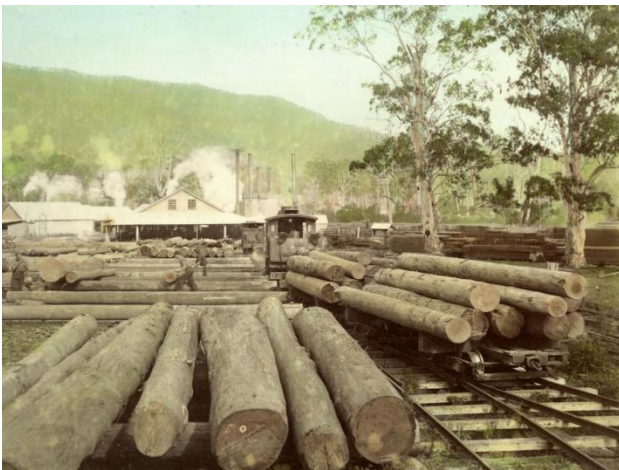
# St Luke's, Canungra, QLD



St Luke's, Canungra, is a charming Queensland Church with a beautiful sub-tropical garden.

The township of Canungra lies in the foothills of Lamington National Park, within the Scenic Rim region about 80 km south of Brisbane. The area is mountainous and forested, acclaimed for its natural beauty and a popular visitor site.

One suggested origin of the town's name is 'Caningera', a word for small (probably Boobook) owls from the language of traditional owners of the Yugambah region of South East Queensland. Residents still nickname their home the Valley of the Owls.



With one of the biggest forest stands in Queensland, the district first drew timber-getters in the late 19th century. A town quickly grew up around the timber industry, centred on the very large Lahey's Sawmill.

By 1916 Canungra was a thriving settlement with a railway connection to south Brisbane. Public buildings such as a School of Arts were constructed, and the entrepreneurial Lahey family built the elegant Bellissima guest house which became a drawcard for visitors.



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Sadly, the Bellissima burnt down in 1937, however it was rebuilt as the current Canungra Hotel.



The population grew as land lots were offered to prospective town-dwellers and farmers. Canungra's timber industry largely closed in the 1940s and the local economy turned to beef cattle and dairying, with continued strong focus on tourism. There is now a small but growing wine industry. Close by, an important defence base, the Kokoda Barracks, further adds to the local population.





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St Luke's Canungra is part of the Anglican Parish of Tamborine Mountain. The date is unknown for the photo above, but it is believed to have been taken at the first wedding celebration. Although services had been held in Canungra since 1908, St Luke's was constructed in 1936. The church was designed by architect Raymond Clare Nowland in the old English Gothic style and built by Mr Gordon Rhodes. It was dedicated in October 1936 by Archbishop William Wand, an event reported fulsomely by the Brisbane Courier Mail.

The church boasts fine rose cedar interior, Gothic pointed arches and detail in the roof, the tinted windows creating a subdued, restful light; as a place of worship it has been described as being 'pleasing in the extreme.'



We always enjoy presenting small country churches that play a lively role in their local community. St Luke's regular news column in the Canungra Times newspaper recounts a busy, creative program of ministries, including bible study, music, school chaplaincy, children's activities (the "Little Lukies" featured above).

There is regular reference to St Luke's involvement in community get-togethers, (see above, St Luke's turns pink for breast cancer) fund-raising events and activities to care for the environment or help people in need.



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Volunteers from the congregation look after the church's pristine grounds, which complement the lovely architecture of this Heritage-listed building. The building is said to be much photographed by visitors, but it seems they are even more struck by the warm atmosphere and welcome they receive.

One of the church's news columns summed up St Luke's ambience as a place for discovering new things, friendship and a sense of belonging.