

MAGIC IN THE MOUNTAINS



Emma Moy, Jorja Brennan, Ava De Luca,
Tanita Tuilau, Charlotte Newell

Tumbarumba Public School



Creative Catchment Kids

Creative Catchment Kids is an initiative of Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre. It aims to improve engagement between our funding partners and school students by providing opportunities for positive and authentic ventures that encourage students to develop creative solutions to agriculture and natural resource management issues.

www.wirraminna.org/creative-catchment-kids/

Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre

The Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre is located in Burrumbuttock, north of Albury in southern NSW. Since 1995, the centre, which is adjacent to Burrumbuttock Public School, has provided opportunities for discovery and learning about the natural environment, the ecology of the local woodlands and the beauty of native plants.

www.wirraminna.org

Enviro-Stories

Enviro-Stories is an innovative literacy education program that inspires learning about natural resource and catchment management issues. Developed by PeeKdesigns, this program provides students with an opportunity to publish their own stories that have been written for other kids to support learning about their local area.

www.envirostories.com.au

MAGIC IN THE MOUNTAINS

Authors: Emma Moy, Jorja Brennan, Ava De Luca,
Tanita Tuilau, Charlotte Newell

Teacher: Jacqui De Abel

School: Tumbarumba Public School

Our Community

In 2016, students involved in the Creative Catchment Kids program researched and wrote stories about their local community and how local individuals, couples, businesses or industries have made a difference. The program was generously funded by Murray Local Land Services.

Creative Catchment Kids - Our Community is part of Enviro-Stories, a PeekKdesigns education program.



Tumbarumba is a unique country town that is situated in the foothills of the Snowy Mountains. As the Aboriginal people made their way to higher ground searching for Bogong moths (a delicacy), they heard the kangaroos bounding on the hollow ground making a Toom-ba-Roomba noise and this is how the name 'Tumbarumba' originated. When you come here you will enjoy the clean mountain air and beautiful rural views.





Aboriginal people

The first people to pass through Tumbarumba were the Wolgal (also called the Walgalu) people. At the local museum there is a coolamon which was found on the 'Mundaroo' property. The coolamon has a diameter of 80 centimetres and weighs 24 kilograms. Because the coolamon is so big, it is believed to have been a camp fixture. Tumbarumba was a meeting place for the local Aboriginal people.

Explorers

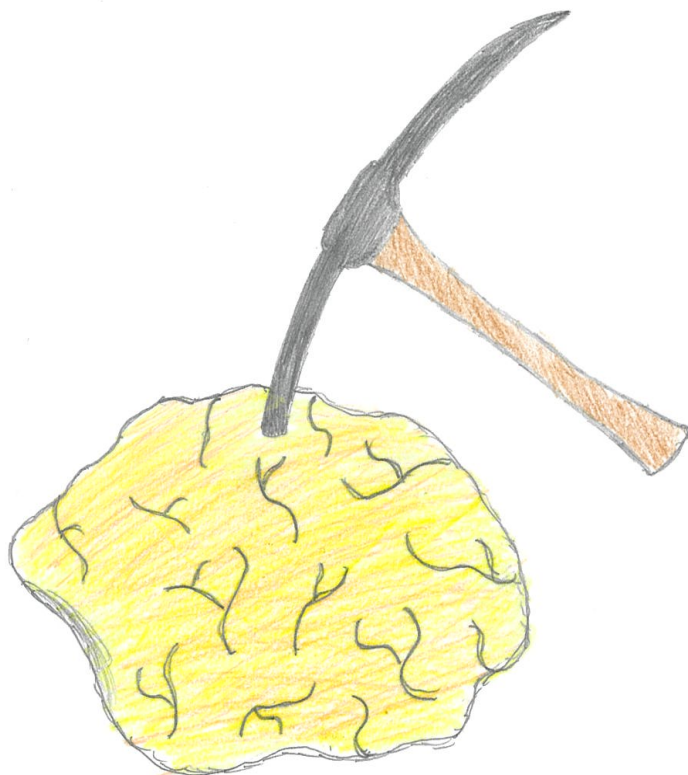
In 1824 explorers, Hume and Hovell, passed through the Tumbarumba area on their way to Victoria. They encountered very rugged country and other various difficulties. We now have a tourist attraction called the '*Hume and Hovell Walking Track*'. There are two very popular free camping grounds found along the walking track. Along the walking track you can find evidence of some of Tumbarumba's gold mining history.





European Settlement

In the mid-1830s, the first white people to claim Tumbarumba as their own were the McAuliffes, Goldspinks, McPhersons, Mates, Rials and McMickings. But none of the original settlers stayed more than a few years. They came to Tumbarumba to graze their stock. These settlers were living in rough huts and eating mainly mutton, flour, sugar, tea and rum.



Gold Mining

In the mid-1850s, gold was discovered in Tumbarumba. There were many miners and George Thomas Heinecke invented the 'Hydraulic Jet Elevator', which made gold mining much more efficient. Most of the gold mining has now stopped, although there are still people who fossick for gold and sapphires.

Close on the heels of gold came the timber industry.

Timber/Forestry

Tumbarumba is surrounded by lots of bush and forests and it makes an ideal place for a timber industry. Hardys began the first mill in 1876 but in 1974 it was taken over by Hyne. Hyne is still the owner of the Tumbarumba Mill with around 200 full time employees and 40 contractors. Forestry also makes up a large part of the local workforce, using people to plant, maintain, harvest and transport the timber.



Ninety percent of the employees are from Tumbarumba, the other ten percent are from Batlow, Tumut and Wagga Wagga. The mill converts logs ready for the building industry all across the eastern sea-board. This timber also goes to Adelaide, Brisbane and even Perth. If you go to Bunnings and buy a bag of garden bark it is most likely to be from the Tumbarumba Hyne Mill.



The Hyne Mill is always planning to expand and grow because if it stays the same it will go backwards. As most of the employees are local, most of their money goes back into our community.

Many of these employees move to Tumbarumba and bring their families with them, making our community more diverse.





Farming Industry

Farming has continued through all of Tumbarumba's history.

“My great grandfather, Allan Brennan, owns a sheep and cattle farm. It is called ‘Good Enough’, which has been in the family for 57 years. He sells his produce to local shops.”

- Jorja Brennan

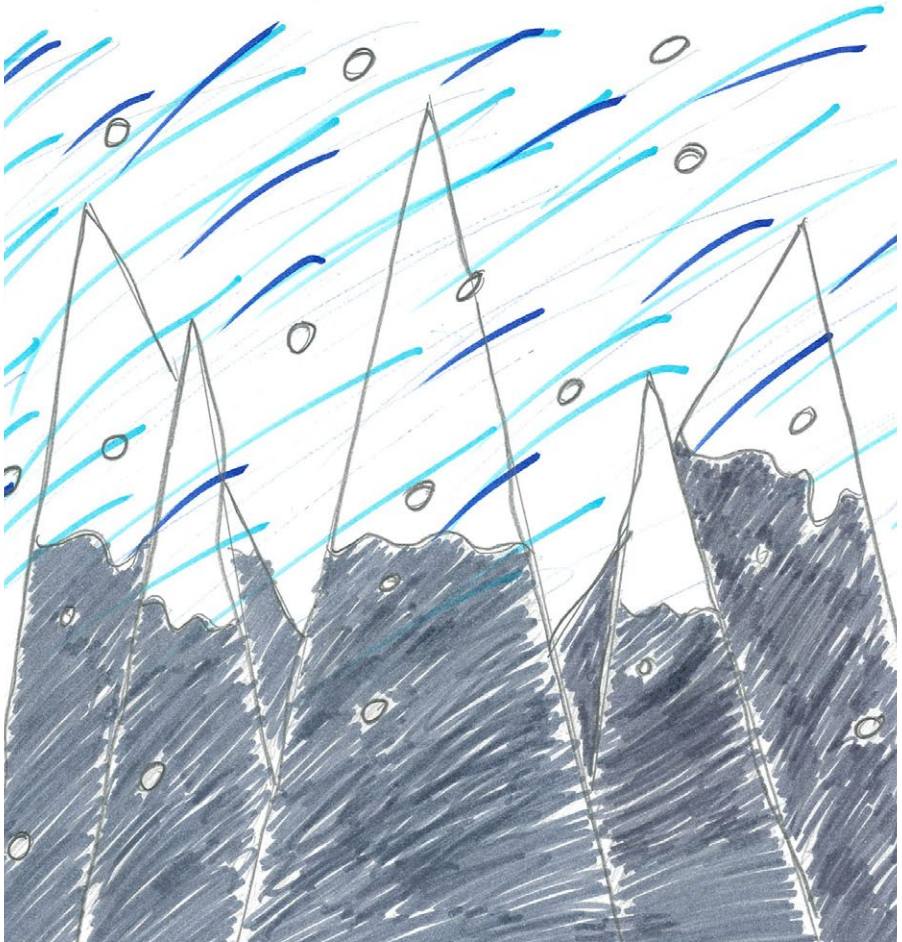
Kay Wilson is another local farmer in Tumbarumba. Kay and her husband own a sheep and grape farm which has been in their family since the early 1900s.



Volunteer Groups

In Tumbarumba we have lots of community volunteer groups. Rotary is one and has around 26 members. The money they raise is spent on our larger community. One of the projects they are heavily involved in is 'Tumba2Kokoda' where they help Year 11 and 12 students raise money and train to walk the Kokoda Track. They also build schools and hospitals in villages along the way.

Tumbarumba is the gateway to the Snowy Mountains; amazing scenery, beautiful free camping grounds and invigorating mountain air. So next time you are passing by Tumbarumba, why don't you stop and have a chat to the locals.



We would like to thank: Kay Wilson, Bruce Wright and Allan Brennan for their generous insights; Ron and Catherine Frew and Anne Rooks for the information from their books.



Emma Moy, Jorja Brennan, Ava De Luca, Tanita Tuilau, Charlotte Newell

2016 Year 5, Tumbarumba Public School

Congratulations!

Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre and
the Creative Catchment Kids Program won the
National 2016 Yates Junior Landcare Team Award.



Local Land Services
Murray

