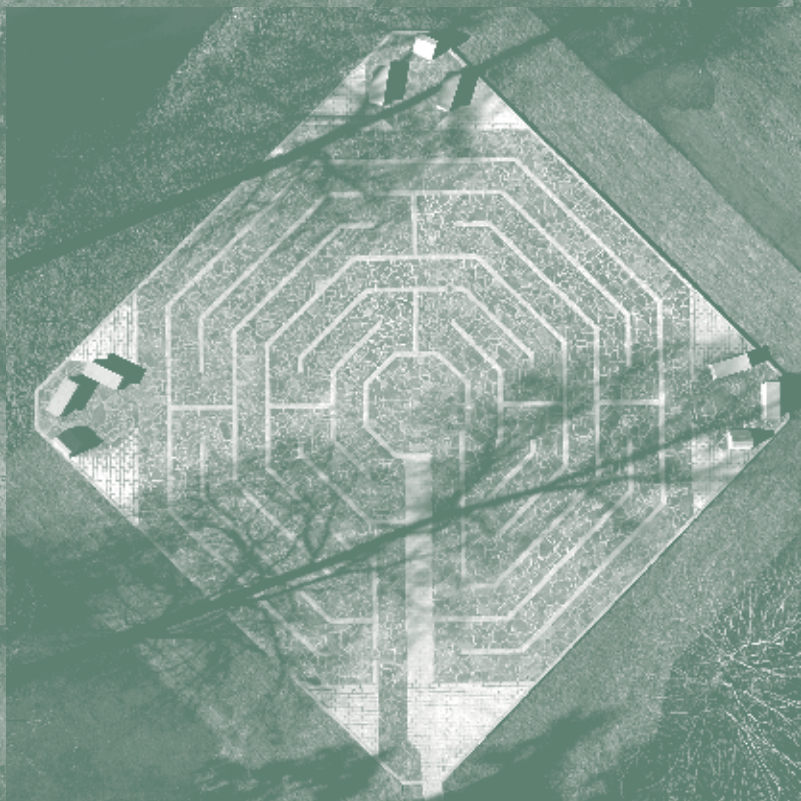
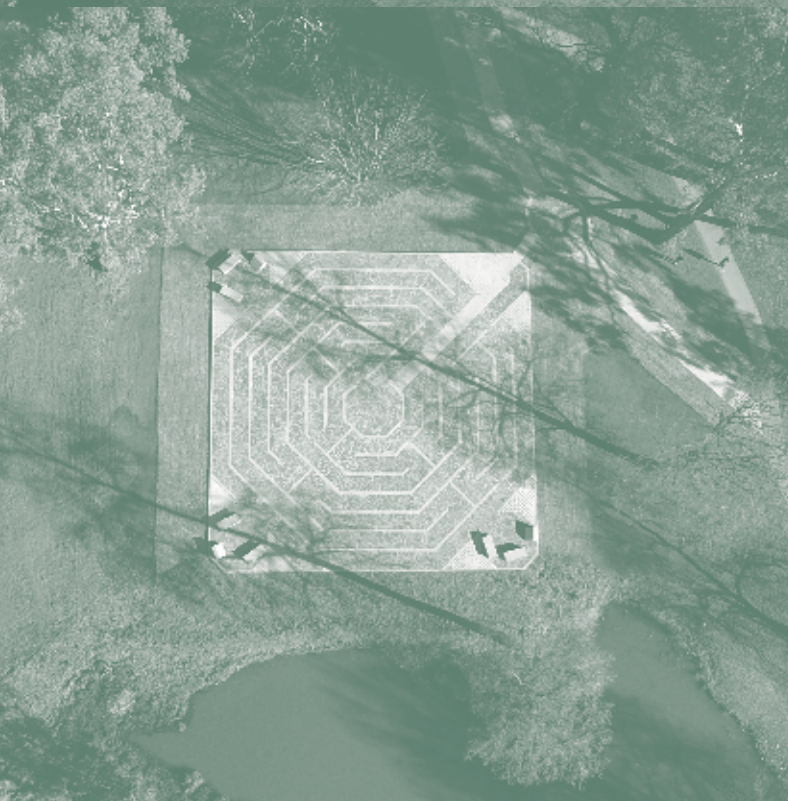




TUMUT COMMUNITY
LABYRINTH
FOR PEACE



A LABYRINTH FOR ALL

The Tumut Labyrinth celebrates the community service of its citizens in times of peace and conflict.

It was conceived and funded by the Blakeney Millar Foundation for the benefit and enjoyment of the Tumut community. The Blakeney Millar Foundation partnered with the Rotary Club of Tumut and the Snowy Valleys Council (formerly the Tumut Shire Council) which provided the location in Pioneer Park, to give the local area a facility that can be used by young and old, together or alone.

The path is wide enough to enable two people to walk together, including carers of children and those less able. Its width also facilitates access by wheelchair or motorised scooters. The way-stations provide places on the journey for rest and further reflection. Local stories of indigenous and European settlement, revealed on the text panels in the way-stations, also facilitate group use such as by schools or community groups.

Whether used as a meeting place, for personal reflection, exercise, education or celebration, the Tumut Labyrinth encourages inclusiveness in recognition of the diversity of its community.

Walking the Labyrinth

Having entered the Labyrinth from the elliptic entranceway visitors move along its single winding stone path and may quietly contemplate their own life journey whilst learning of those who have preceded them in forging the communities of the Tumut region. Once arriving at the centre, return is possible either via a direct path to the entranceway or by retracing the winding path.

As labyrinths are designed to promote respectful contemplation, all who use it should do so with courtesy towards others in mind.

I rest as still, as stones in a pool - David Campbell

FEATURES OF THE LABYRINTH

Design

The design of the Labyrinth draws on historic conceptions of labyrinths whilst presenting a unique experience. In common with centuries of tradition, the Tumut Labyrinth is in the shape of an octagon with seven layers of path folded back and forth between the outer edge and the centre. Unlike mazes, which are designed to confuse or to test, a labyrinth aims for tranquillity. There is a single entrance and single winding path which leads to a central place of contemplation.



The path is commenced in a clockwise direction and by attentively following the turns a journey of some 325 metres traversing each quadrant of the Labyrinth octagon can be completed.

Commonly, labyrinths focus on the individual alone on their journey. This is indeed one of the many ways the Tumut Labyrinth journey can be undertaken. However, its wide paths and the stories in its way-stations facilitate group use, such as by schools, carers or community groups.

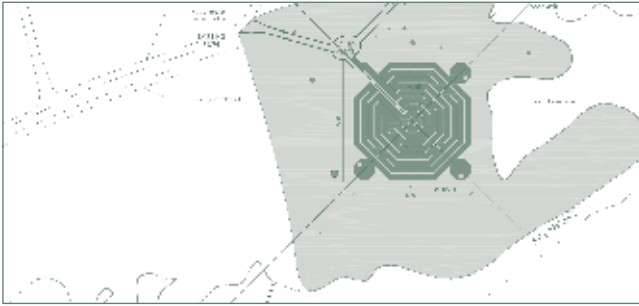
The specific materials and stories make this Labyrinth uniquely a local one of Tumut. The geometric form evokes Tumut's main streets which were planned as a grid of squares. Tumut's experience of the First World War is also featured in the design with the position of the planets in the southern sky on the date of the armistice of the First World War represented in the Labyrinth.



Ancient forms of labyrinth are found in churches, retreats, gardens and sites of ceremony. They utilised their setting to provide for reflection, repentance, community celebration, and spiritual pilgrimage and worship. The Tumut Labyrinth facilitates these approaches, and draws upon its public parkland setting to promote remembrance of Tumut and those who have served their community. It also provides spaces for learning and the enjoyment of wider local vistas.

Rotary's Pioneer Park with its proximity to Tumut River and, in particular, its lagoon and extensive riverside paths, provides an ideal location for wide community access.





Pathway

The Labyrinth path is made of Wee Jasper bluestone and is edged by a concrete exposed aggregate comprising river pebbles.

The path is wide enough for two people to walk side-by-side, or for a motorised scooter or wheelchair to navigate the turns, an approach to accessibility that is unique to the Tumut Labyrinth.

Way-stations

The Tumut Labyrinth includes three way-stations, situated along the outer edges, providing places of rest and learning.

The seats in the way-stations echo the occasional riverbank concrete blocks in the Park. These spaces also enable contemplation of specific vistas across the Labyrinth including the Tumut area's natural features and the township.

In particular, text panels suggest and highlight the contributions of first inhabitants and more recent settlers for the benefit of the community as a whole.

A poem by Adelong-born poet David Campbell (1915-1979) also appears on the text plinths. Three stanzas that form section 1 of the poem *River Music* are progressively revealed in the three way-stations adding to contemplation and learning.

Materials

The Labyrinth was built using local materials – the path is made with locally quarried Wee Jasper bluestone, an ancient basalt, and edged with a concrete exposed aggregate comprising Jugiong Murrumbidgee river pebbles referencing the earth below and the surfaces of the park, as well as the river waters alongside which the Labyrinth is situated. Nine local varieties of stone have also been sourced to represent the sun and its planets.

The Solar System

A labyrinth's centre can traditionally suggest the Sun with the orbit of the eight planets in our solar system represented by the rings of the eight layers of path edges that form the seven folded layers of the path. This ancient form is mirrored in the design of the Tumut Labyrinth.

The position of the planets in the Milky Way galaxy in the southern sky on 11 November 1918, the date of the First World War Armistice, is mapped across the Tumut Labyrinth, with their orbits represented in the correct sequence but equally spaced from each other.

This impression of the sky above Tumut at this historic time provides a symbolic means of situating the Labyrinth in a context of service locally and historically, particularly recognising its construction during the Centenary of Anzac, an Australia-wide program commemorating a century of military service since the First World War.

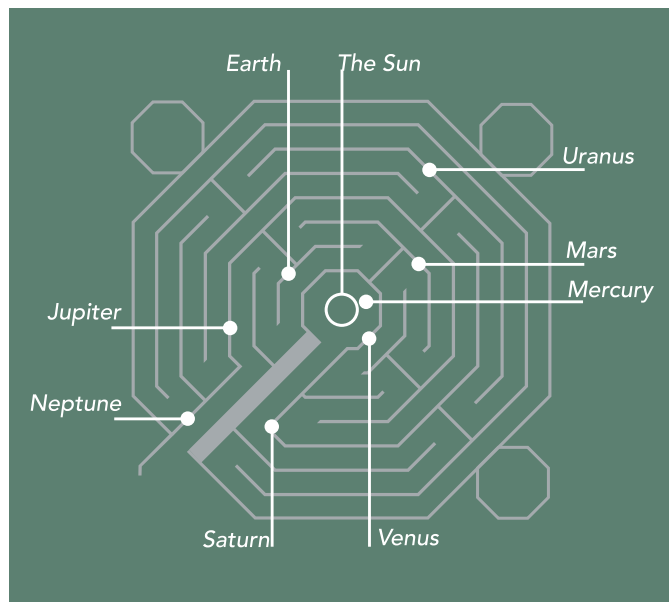


The path winds past each planet, beginning with Neptune, the outermost planet known at the time of the First World War. At the centre is a larger stone representing the Sun.

By arriving at the centre, a place of solitude, reflection on the spirit of service represented by all Tumut's communities and their inhabitants is possible.

The planet stones were laid by the Labyrinth builders in the presence of a diverse range of community representatives of early pioneer and pastoral families, local industry and commerce, and of health and education facilities, as well as Council employees and school students, and members of the Blakeney Millar Foundation and Rotary Club of Tumut.

These stones range from the 400 million years old columnar jointing basalt from Batlow and Tumbarumba positioned around the Sun which is represented by a gold granite, to more recent examples of limestone, granite, quartz and marble for the planets.



The stones that represent the Sun and planets are:

Sun..... Adelong gold granite

Mercury..... Adelong grey granite

Venus..... Pale Tumut marble

Earth Tumut marble

Mars..... Holbrook red granite

Jupiter Gocup - sedimentary stone
with quartzite vein

Saturn Holbrook pale red granite

Uranus Adelong quartz

Neptune Yarragobilly limestone

Other World War Connections

As well as specifically recognising all those from the Tumut region who have served in military conflicts through its solar system design feature, a number of additional wartime elements have been incorporated into its construction.

Under each planet lies a handful of soil from Belgium, specifically from Hill 60, the scene of a significant 1917 battle involving Australians serving on the Western Front during the First World War.

The soil was provided by the Director of the Australian War Memorial, Dr Brendan Nelson, from a number of bags sourced by the Memorial to plant its own commemorative Flanders Fields Garden at the Memorial, also in 2017.



The Blakeney Millar Foundation has fostered a special relationship with the town of Ieper (Ypres) in Belgium in recent years. In 2010, the Chairman of the Foundation officially represented New South Wales at the famous Menin Gate ceremony on Anzac Day.

Tumut High School students, in an annual journey supported financially by the Foundation, have attended Anzac Day Dawn Services in nearby Polygon Wood and enjoyed the hospitality of the *In Flanders Fields Museum* as well as that of teachers and students from an Ieper school, the Immaculata College.

Mixed with the Hill 60 soil under the planet stones are a variety of local mementos of the Spirit of Anzac including a horseshoe and a dog collar (both recognising the significant involvement of animals in the war effort and their companionship), as well as Lone Pine cuttings from trees at the Tumut Cenotaph, a local veteran's Second World War medal, and a soldier's photo and letter home to his mother from the Western Front.

Labyrinths Across the World

The Tumut Labyrinth draws on ancient patterns and practices. Labyrinths have been found in virtually all civilisations throughout history and across the world, appearing in many different designs and in a great variety of places including in churches and hospitals, gardens and parks. Labyrinths are sometimes temporary but commonly permanent and the Tumut Community Labyrinth for Peace joins an international network of operational labyrinths across the world.

Their purpose is not a settled question – they are sometimes understood to be synonymous with pilgrimages, echoing the idea of a contemplative, rejuvenating and maturing journey. However, they also appear to have supported ceremonies and

other rituals. Labyrinths are almost always focussed on a single path to a central space. The use of forked paths which lead to dead ends or confusion, as sometimes depicted in art or myths, are more correctly termed mazes.

The Tumut construction is based on medieval European designs that can still be seen in French cathedrals today. One well known shape is the circular form found in Chartres, but the Tumut one is based on the octagon in Reims Cathedral.

The Plantings

The Tumut Grevillia (*Grevillia Wilkinsoni*), an endangered species, has been planted in a grove between the Labyrinth and the adjacent billabong of the Tumut River. Other locally grown Australian plants feature in this new garden. The Grevillia, along with Tumut Wattle (*Acacia Pravissima*), was used in the Labyrinth Dedication and Presentation Ceremony.

Nearby in the Park, a memorial English Oak has been planted creating a link with the memorial Wood of Peace being established in Flanders' Polygon Wood this year. This tree commemorates all Tumut citizens who have served in conflicts around the world. The soil from Hill 60 in Belgian Flanders has also been used in this planting.



TUMUT COMMUNITY LABYRINTH FOR PEACE

WAY-STATION TEXT PANELS

PANEL 1

Building

When, in 1824, the explorers Hamilton Hume and William Hovell ventured along the river known to local Aboriginal Australians as the 'Doomut', they sought to open opportunity for settler families.

They were quick to realise what the Wiradjuri, Walgalu and Ngunawal peoples had long known – that the Tumut region was a natural haven, a meeting and dwelling place.

In 1887 a new community was proclaimed, centred in the township of Tumut, and which later incorporated the villages of Adelong, Batlow, Brungle, and Talbingo.

Contributing

Those early pioneers drew strength from enterprising leadership and a volunteering zeal, forging a strong identity and civic commitment. At times, fire and flood, drought and hardship would test the settlement.

Many put themselves in harm's way, responding to emergencies or venturing overseas to serve in theatres of war.

Today, this foundation continues: public amenities are provided, and social needs tackled. Local schools and churches, sports and the arts thrive, and help foster a spirit of contribution to Tumut.

PANEL 2

Prospering

For centuries, the first custodians of the Tumut region have cared for its blessings of diverse and abundant natural resources. The soil and water, mountains, forests and minerals have provided the foundation for the township, with its farms and its businesses.

Through cleverness of mind and diligence of hand local citizens have forged an economy populated with timber mills and dairies, gold mines and orchards that has flourished and enriched the nation.

Understanding

The name Tumut is drawn from the local Aboriginal word 'Doomut'. It means 'quiet resting place by the river', and the Tumut River has long prompted storytelling and the imagination.

The Wiradjuri use night-sky reflections on the water's surface to recount songlines of people, time and place. Starlight has prompted many to find a safe path, divine the weather, and to gaze in wonder.

This heavenly dome is reflected in the labyrinth: a large central stone and eight smaller stones located along path edges are each specific to the region. Their positions mirror the Sun and the planets of the Milky Way galaxy.

PANEL 3

Commemorating

Every year, on Remembrance Day, Tumut joins with cities, towns and villages across Australia to commemorate the sacrifices of wartime. Hundreds of men and women from the region have served in times of conflict around the world.

The position of the planets in the southern sky on 11 November 1918 - a day when more than four years of fighting in the First World War gave way to silence and peace - is mapped across the labyrinth.

Like all vibrant communities, the people of Tumut value coming together to honour a shared past and to yarn stories. Festivals and gatherings held on the riverside celebrate the region's heritage of diversity and the common values that are essential strands of the local fabric.

Respecting

The story of Tumut is one of establishing a home, and achieving a prosperity founded on natural wealth and human endeavour. Today's citizens can draw on their region's rich history, continuing to build community through education, industry and creativity, whilst proud of their heritage and grateful for it. In this spirit, a peaceful and resourceful township has the foundations for a hopeful future.

DAVID CAMPBELL

The three quatrains or stanzas that form section 1 of David Campbell's poem *River Music* are gradually revealed on the text panels in the labyrinth way-stations.

River Music

*In still pools stones
Have the clarity
Of eggs in a nest.
They lie like thoughts in the mind.*

*Stones come alive
In your hands in water;
Dive and feel
In the cobbled green runs.*

*Lay out creek stones
Like rinsed words
Wet and coloured
On a white page.*

- David Campbell



David Campbell (1915-1979) was born in the Adelong area, and educated in Sydney at the King's School. He pursued studies in History and Literature in England, graduating from Cambridge University where he also trained as a pilot. In the 1930s, before returning to Australia, Campbell played Rugby for England.

During the Second World War, based in Darwin, he served in the RAAF in Papua New Guinea where he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. For his later service as No 1 and No 2 Squadron leader, he received a bar to his DFC. In the decades after the Second World War, he established himself as a farmer near Canberra and as a much-awarded poet. Campbell's words and images reveal a rich appreciation of our landscapes and a deep understanding of people, making him one of Australia's finest poetic voices.

TUMUT COMMUNITY LABYRINTH FOR PEACE DEDICATION AND PRESENTATION CEREMONY

1.00 pm Saturday 12th August 2017

Master of Ceremonies:

Mr Darren Mitchell, Labyrinth Consultant

Prelude

The commencement of the ceremony to dedicate the Tumut Community Labyrinth for Peace, and the Blakeney Millar Foundation and the Rotary Club of Tumut to present the Labyrinth to the citizens of Tumut, will be accompanied by bag pipes and didgeridoo, and the bearing of river water and traditional incense and smoke.

First Movement

'River Song'

Performance by Franklin Primary School Choir, whilst Tumut community leaders and Labyrinth creators are led to the Labyrinth by Franklin Primary School students.

'River Music', a poem by David Campbell

Mr Tim Oliver

Chair, Blakeney Millar Foundation

Second Movement

Lantern-lighting of the Planets

Tumut Youth Council

Dedication of the Labyrinth

Tumut region elders

Musical items

Third Movement

'Soldier's Song', a poem by David Campbell

Mr Robert Watson

President, RSL sub-branch

Presentation of floral gifts

Tumut Community leaders and Labyrinth Creators

Last Post

Silent Reflection

All present

Fourth Movement

Presentation of the Labyrinth to the Snowy Valleys Council on behalf of the Citizens of Tumut

Mr Tim Oliver, Chair, Blakeney Millar Foundation

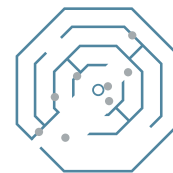
Mr Steven Walker, past President,

Rotary Club of Tumut

The Citizens of Tumut receive the gift of the Labyrinth

All present are invited to 'walk as one at One'

(Tumut Wattle sprigs in hand for casting or wearing)



TUMUT COMMUNITY
LABYRINTH
FOR PEACE

WITH GRATITUDE

Architect - Hector Abrahams

Interpretive Consultant - Darren Mitchell

Structural Engineer - Peter Kennard

Lead Contractor - Rocky Padjen

Paving Advisor - Mark Paine : Geo technical drilling - Aitken Rowe : Screw Piles - Abroearth - Scandinavian Engineering : Excavator - Henry Dowling - Peter Dickson - R&L Withers : Concreter - Clayton Deudney : Landscape and paving - Dan and Dan - Mark Paine : Hire and cartage - Tumut Bricks and Pavers : Wee Jasper Bluestone - Binks Pavers : Container hire and freight - Tumut Freight : Tumut Tree Surgery : Stone cutting - Kell and Denson : Columnar jointing - Bald Hill Quarry : Editor - Pauline Webber : Tumut Signs : Littlewood Signs : The Oak - Professional Tree Supplies : Tumut Landcare Nursery : Tie the Knot's horse shoe - The Tait family : David Campbell Trustees - John and Kerry Campbell : Flanders soil - Dr Brendan Nelson, Director Australian War Memorial : Planet stones - John Cox, Marlene Pearce, Rod Henrick, Peter Reakes, Rick Hargreaves : Snowy Valleys Council staff - Brad Beed, Anthony Benjamin, Finance and Community Development teams, Parks and Gardens - Kayne Webber and Paul Nugent Turf - Tarcoola Turf Wagga : High Res Aerial Images : Graphic design - Angela Pearce

BLAKENEY MILLAR FOUNDATION & ROTARY CLUB OF TUMUT

The Blakeney Millar Foundation is a private, philanthropic and discretionary trust which operates under terms laid down by its generous benefactor Mrs Lillian Maude Blakeney Millar.

It funds innovative projects in the fields of community service, education, health and beautification of Tumut and its environs.

The Foundation has a strong relationship with the Rotary Club of Tumut, who are the custodians of the Rotary Pioneer Park.

Rotary played a major role in returning what was an overgrown swamp into the park it is today. The driving force behind this was Pat Cruise with the help of many Rotarians and others. Rotarians continue to work with the Council and its Parks and Gardens team to maintain this important public space.

A CHURCHILL STORY

The Blakeney Millar Foundation also supports the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust in funding Tumut residents to undertake a Churchill Fellowship of benefit to Tumut and its environs. It was through the Churchill Fellowship network that the Tumut Labyrinth has evolved.

Three 'Blakeney Millar' Churchill Fellows have been involved:

Louise Halsey co-ordinated the project, Diana Palmer consulted on accessibility, and Liz McPhee advised on native vegetation rehabilitation.

The interpretive consultant for the Labyrinth, Darren Mitchell, is also a Churchill Fellow (not a 'Blakeney Millar').



The Blakeney Millar Foundation | Rotary Club of Tumut | Snowy Valleys Council