

Tallong Community Focus Group Newsletter

February 2016

Welcome to 2016...

A very happy new year to all Tallong residents... 2016 is expected to see big improvements in the village with our redevelopment plans well advanced. There will be a bigger and better ANZAC day commemoration and an exciting May Day Apple Day Festival is planned for Sunday May 1.

First up, all residents are invited to an hour-long **Open Forum** at the beginning of the TCFG's regular monthly meeting at the Memorial Hall on **Tuesday February 16 at 7pm**. This is an important opportunity for all Tallong residents to discuss four village projects to be completed this year.

The Focus Group has been busy chasing up quotes, permissions and tax invoices for these so that we can draw on funds that have been allocated to Tallong by the Goulburn Mulwaree Council. Here is an update on the projects:

It is hoped to finish the **Restore the War Memorial Project** by ANZAC day on April 25. This includes the replacing of the damaged World War Two plaques, opening up access and establishing an easily maintained garden area.

Some parts of the **Memorial Park Project** should be ready in time for Apple Day on May 1. The iconic big apple which has been a landmark part of the Watling's fruit shed for decades is to be restored and repositioned in Memorial Park which will also include signage about our apple orchard past and a new Jim Watling Walkway.

The **Station Car Park Project** will provide more parking spaces for residents using the train and bus connections and provide much needed parking for Apple Day visitors. The project will see a lot of clearing of overgrown bushes from the eastern side of the station leaving the mature Argyle Apple and Eucalypts. Planting of crab apples along the

fence will improve the attraction of the village centre.

And finally, the **Tallong Welcome Site Project** will enhance the entrance to Tallong welcome points on either side of the village along Highland Way.

ANZAC Day remembered...

This year's ANZAC Day commemoration will focus on the Second World War after last year's celebration of the ANZAC centenary.

A display highlighting the activities of those Tallong residents who served in WW11 is being planned. We're making a big plea to Tallong ex-servicemen and women and their descendants. If you have any information about or photographs of your relatives, please contact Janet Black (Ph 4841 0613 or email jlm.black@bigpond.com).

In particular, Janet would like to contact any members of the Burrows family who lived at 'Wyadra' on the Old Wingello Road. Four members of the family served and one was killed in action in Malaya in early 1942.

Please help if you can!

She'll be Apples on May Day...

Some exciting new competitions are planned for the Apple Day Festival on Sunday May 1.

One is a Photography competition with three categories: primary school, high school, and open. Photographs must have been taken in the last 12 months and can be in black and white or colour. There is a limit of two entries per exhibitor. Judging will be by Magnus Agren, well-known Tallong professional photographer.

Also new this year is a Creative Writing competition for a short story or a poem. Again, three categories: primary school, secondary school, and adult. Hard copy entries must be submitted by Sunday April 17 in envelopes at the Tallong General Store

or the Marulan General Store. The judges will be local author, Jean Lombard, and journalist John Lombard.

Infant and preschool children from Tallong, Marulan, Wingello, and Penrose are invited to enter the Apple Granny Art competition by producing an artwork banner with a Welcome to Tallong theme.

As in past years, Apple Day commemorates the famous Granny Smith apple, an Australian discovery 148 years ago. It originated from a chance seedling propagated by Maria Ann Smith in 1868 and was classed as the best cooking apple in the country. Today, everybody knows and enjoys the fresh, crispy, juicy flesh of a Granny Smith apple. And as the Apple is the theme of the festival, it is appropriate that the good granny should be remembered.

Always popular is the Mrs T's Bake-Off competition open to primary schoolchildren producing a maximum of six small items per tray. In the secondary school and adult divisions, there are three categories: cakes, cupcakes or muffins; pies, tarts, pastries; and jams, pickles, chutneys, sauces or jelly.

And there is a Local Artist Exhibition at which locals are invited to show their original artworks in the Memorial Hall on Apple Day for display or for sale.

For more information about any of these competitions, please contact Christine Wursten (Ph 0418 648 610 or email wursten@bigpond.com) or Kim Gray (Ph 0438 285 095 or email kimgray@sctelco.net.au).

Sponsoring opportunities...

Newcomers to Tallong with a business might like to think about being involved with Apple Day by sponsoring an event. The Festival is a good opportunity to promote local businesses and gain good publicity. Anybody interested should contact Christine Wursten (ph 0418 648

Opals for sale...

At long last, train travellers can buy and/or top up their Opal travel cards locally in

Tallong. So, if you're travelling anywhere on NSW trains and you want paper ticket-free travel, the Tallong General Store is where you get your Opal card.

There are four available: an adult card for travellers 16 years or older and who normally pay full fare; a child/youth card for anyone aged 4-15 or a full time NSW/ACT student aged 16 or more; a senior/pensioner card for eligible seniors, pensioners, and asylum seekers; and a concession card for eligible tertiary or TAFE students, apprentices, trainees or job seekers.

Painting up a celebration...

St Stephen's Church in Tallong is 123 years old this year and is celebrating with a fresh coat of paint. It is a beautiful real bush church, a neat weatherboard structure on brick piles and lined with pine.

Originally, parishioners met in a slab school with a bark roof. Then a local, Mr E W Molesworth gave an acre of land for a church. This was built in 1893 at a cost of £178 and opened either on 26th December (which is the Feast of St Stephen) or on Sunday 1st January 1894.

In the terrible 1965 bush fires, the church was lucky to survive: the flames came to within four metres of the building but the registers and minute books were destroyed in a parishioner's home. Today, St Stephen's is part of the parish of Sutton Forest.

Vale Valerie Crankshaw...

It is with great sadness that we record the death of Val Crankshaw just short of her 92nd birthday. She was a popular local personality who had lived in Tallong Park since arriving in 2002 with her husband Ken. He died in 2009. Both New Zealanders who served in WW11, Val was a member of the NZ Women's Auxiliary Air Force. Ken was a rear gunner in the famous Bomber Command. They are survived by two sons, Michael and Peter as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Diary Date...

Sunday March 6, Clean-Up Australia Day, if you can help, please meet at 9am at the Memorial Hall.