

TALLONG COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUP INC.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 16th August, 2012

ITEM	DATE Initiated	DECISIONS/FOLLOW UP
ADMINISTRATION		
Members Present	19-8-10	Margaret, Dugald, Janet, Sharyn, Geoff
Apologies	21-05-09	John
Ratify Minutes Of Previous Meeting	21-05-09	Moved: Lionel Seconded: Janet that the Minutes be accepted.
Memberships	21-05-09	35 new members. A stand at the Council elections on Sept. 8 – roster of people?
Treasurer's Report	21-06-12	See Attachment 1. Motion: That the Treasurer's report be accepted. Moved: Lionel Seconded: Sharyn A cheque for \$126.29 was written to Lionel Willison for cement for the Community sign construction. Final grant payment of \$653 received from the V-M Trust. Action: Geoff to contact Goulburn Bowman re their un-presented cheque from Apple Day. Done Cheque still not cleared – to be followed up again. The treasurer's report for the AGM has been received and distributed Action: Geoff to contact Crisp Insurance re insurance of the Community Sign. They say they will not do it. Action: Geoff to contact 1. GMC about situation with Council signs 2. David Leese with his opinion. Action: An assets register should be set-up by the new committee.
Secretary's Report Correspondence In	21-05-09	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. From Dorothy Godsk re the railway and transport services from Tallong in general. 2. Letter from V-M Trust with the final payment. 3. Remittance Advice from Council re sale of 3 books 4. Emails from Debbi Roden – re visit – Familiarization with Tallong – business development
Secretary's Report Correspondence Out	21-05-09	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Letter to Goulburn Bowman re their un-presented cheque from Apple Day. 2. Letter to Crisp Insurance re changing the policy to include the Community sign. 3. Email to Terry Cooper re the pot holes re-forming under the railway bridge. 4. Communications completing the Grant acquittal with the Veolia Mulwaree Trust. <p>Moved: Dugald Second: Janet that Incoming mail be received/Outgoing be endorsed.</p>
Articles and Publicity in the Local Papers	21-05-09	Leader – John: Thankfully still Twittering away when he gets information.
Newsletters	18.12.08	Leader: John: See Attachment 2 for the August Newsletter. Suggest the next Newsletter is issued after the AGM containing the new committee, etc. To also include notice on the Oct 4 meeting.
COMMUNITY PROJECTS		
Tallong Apple Day Festival	26-11-09	Leader: Sharyn – Tallong Public School has nominated Chrissie Wurston for the Apple Day Committee.

ITEM	DATE Initiated	DECISIONS/FOLLOW UP
Tallong History Booklet sales/reprint	22- 5-08	Leader- Janet/Margaret: 3 sold by GMC Tourist Information Centre. New committee to consider a reprint of the booklet.
Marulan South Quarry – CCC	17- 9 -08	Leader Geoff. Report on meeting on August 1 - see Attachment 3.
Website development	21.05.09	Leader: Geoff:
Tallong Streetscape Volunteer Group		Leader: Lionel: Working group held on Aug. 15. See Attachment 4 for the GMC report on the meeting with Mike Kennedy. Future of the picnic ground amenities to be raised at the AGM.
GENERAL BUSINESS		
Road numbering in the Village	17-12-09	Leader: Geoff: Waiting on GMC after the gazetting process. Will have to follow-up as many months overdue.
Movies	17-12-09	Leaders: Lionel/Janet: In abeyance. Action: Janet to see what classic movies are available at the GMC Library.
Program of 2011-2012 events for the TCFG (to be publicised on the Website)	21-1-10	Leader: Committee: Action: John to follow up with Indira Naidoo and set the date. John awaits a reply! Dates to be confirmed with Hall availability before adding to the website.
Tallong Public School	16-12-10	Weekly Newsletters have been added to the website. Open Day on Aug. 17 from 11.30am onwards.
Tallong Recreational Reserve Trust	20-01-11	Lionel : Mike has suggested ideas
Highland Way clean-up	17-3-11	Leader Sharyn: Keep Tallong Clean signs have not been approved by councils Traffic committee. Need to rethink this one with full committee after the AGM.
Footpath on Highland St between Hope St and Mulwaree Drive?	16-6-11	Leader: Geoff: Delayed for further consideration in next year's (2013-2014) GMC budget.
Road pot-hole patching – continued poor workmanship.	16-6-11	Geoff: Action: Geoff to contact Terry Cooper re the pot holes reforming under the railway bridge on Highland Way following previous repairs. Done but no reply so far.
NEW BUSINESS		
Vision for Vegetation in Tallong	15-9-11	Oct 4 – speakers to be presented with History booklet, Tallong bag and a bottle of wine. Supper: scones, jam, cream and party pies, tea and coffee.
Veolia Mulwaree Trust grant for the Community Sign	15-9-11	Leader: Geoff: The Community Notice Board was erected on Sat 21st July. With many thanks to Mark Jellicoe, Cliff Danckwardt and Steve Gallagher for their assistance.
Anzac Day commemoration in Tallong	15-3-12	Organisation for next year should take place in January 2013. Action: Janet to talk to Sue Matthews, Principal of the Tallong PS to commit students to the Tallong ceremony.

ITEM	DATE Initiated	DECISIONS/FOLLOW UP
New NSW OH&S laws and their Impact on Volunteer Groups	19-1-12	Action: Geoff to follow up with Will Singleton of the GMC. Not yet done. Discuss the possibility of the GMC running a general course for volunteers.
Railway station platform	21/6/12	Some feedback from residents following the August Newsletter. Can ask for further feedback at the AGM.
Bi-centenary of Tallong's discovery by European settlers/explorers	19-4-12	Leader: John: For discussion purposes to set-up a sub-group to co-ordinate activities for the 2018 celebrations. Needs community consultation. Bring this up at the AGM and mention a new project for a History of Tallong Volume 2 booklet.
Date for the AGM September 6, 2012 at 7.30pm	17-5-12	Margaret: Supper: scones, jam, cream and party pies, tea and coffee. Otherwise everything now prepared.
Lighting at the intersection of Hume Hwy and Highland Way – RTA submission?	21-6-12	Leader: Dugald – discussion re lighting change on Hume Highway a blind spot – carried over for meeting after the AGM.
Council elections on Sept. 8 – TCFG stall	19-7-12	A stall will be set-up at the Memorial Hall to solicit new memberships of the TCFG on the day of the Council Elections. Roster: Geoff/Lionel 8-10am; Janet/Dugald 10am-12 noon; Margaret/Lionel 12 noon-2pm.
Hazard reduction in Tallong	16-8-12	Action: Geoff to draft a letter to be sent to the government and MPs re decision of RFS management to prevent local brigades from being present at resident's hazard reduction fire burns.

Meeting closed at 9 pm EST. Next Meeting: Thursday September 20, 2012

Attachment 1: Treasurer's report

TCFG Balance Sheet 13 Aug 2012

TALLONG COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUP	
Balance Sheet	
ACN 35 027 663 679	as at 13/08/2012
Inc No NSW INC9887110	

Assets	<i>Current Assets</i>		
	IMB Account (passbook)	\$3,532.82	
	Cash in hand	\$338.60	
	Projector & DVD player at cost	\$3,880.49	
	Community sign at cost	\$5,226.00	
	Total		<u>\$12,977.91</u>
	IMB Account less unrepresented cheques	\$3,432.82	
Liabilities	<i>Current Liabilities</i>		
	Depreciation of projector & DVD player	\$3,880.49	
	Depreciation of community sign	\$0.00	
	Cheques to be written (for creditors)	\$0.00	
	Unrepresented Cheques	\$100.00	
	Total		<u>\$3,980.49</u>
Net Assets	(current assets minus current liabilities)		<u>\$8,997.42</u>

Summary of income and expenses (financial year to date)

Total income	\$300.00
Total expenses	\$63.45
Creditors (see list below)	\$0.00
Income-expenses-creditors+cheques	\$236.55

Summary of income and expenses since last meeting

<i>Income</i>	Book sales	\$120.00	
	Membership renewals	\$0.00	
	Mulwaree Trust grant (2nd payment)		
	Total income	\$120.00	
<i>Expenses</i>	Business Requisites (L Willison)	\$24.50	Newsletters
	Netregistry (G Clark) - domain name	\$34.95	
	Total expenses	\$59.45	
<i>Cheques to bank</i>			
	Total	\$0.00	
<i>Creditors</i>			
	Total creditors	\$0.00	
Equity	Retained Earnings	\$3,534.87	See note 1
	Current Year Earnings	\$236.55	
	Projector & DVD player after depreciation	\$0.00	See note 2
	Community sign after depreciation	\$5,226.00	See note 2
	Total equity	\$8,997.42	

Note (1)	Retained earnings comprise:		
	Bank balance at start of financial year	\$5,949.82	plus
	Cash in hand at start of financial year	\$298.05	
	Less unpresented cheque 8059	\$100.00	
	Less unpresented cheque 8064	\$2,613.00	presented 3/7/12
		\$3,534.87	

Note (2) Basis of depreciation is one third of purchase price per year

Attachment 2

Tallong Community Focus Group Newsletter August 2012

Tallong Treasures....

Question: how much do you know about the flora of the Tallong district? Not much, a little, a lot?

On Thursday 4th October, the Tallong Community Focus Group is hosting an evening supper/talk at 7.30pm at the Tallong Memorial Hall which should have widespread appeal. The topic of the talk is "Little known treasures of the Tallong bush" and the speakers are two experts: President of the Australian Native Orchid Society (ANOS) Alan Stephenson and naturalist and ANOS member Denis Wilson.

One feature of our local bush is the Tallong Midge Orchid *Genoplesium plumosum*, which is listed as endangered under Federal and State conservation laws and is now found only in the Tallong area. It has been adopted as Tallong's emblem. The orchid is limited to sites around Tallong that are characterised by shallow soils overlying flat to gently sloping sheets of sandstone.

To learn more about the Tallong Midge Orchid and other little known treasures of Tallong, put 4th October in your diary. For catering purposes, please RSVP to secretary@tallong.com or to the TCFG letter box at the Tallong store no later than 1st October.

Hunting incidents...

Periodically, illegal hunting activities are a problem in the Tallong area. Spotlighting and shooting on or from public roads is illegal under state law, but not on private land with the landowner's permission. Crossbows are also illegal, silencers too; and unauthorised entry onto private land is trespassing.

Since late June there have been a number of incidents reported, including a widely reported incident where a horse was shot and killed on a property on Caoura Road.

The police advise that if you see an illegal incident or come across someone acting suspiciously, call them (Marulan Police Station - 4841 1516). If there is a vehicle present, try and get a description of it and its registration if you can.

Even if the police are unable to respond immediately, every incident reported helps them assess how big the problem is, and they do send out patrols from time to time if they think there is enough illegal activity going on to make it worth their while. You should not approach the people involved as they could be dangerous.

Please Notice this...

No more excuses about not knowing what is happening in the Tallong district... The Tallong Community Notice Board is now a reality.

Many thanks are due to Mark Jellicoe (M&M Earthmoving), Cliff Danckwardt, Mike Kennedy, Lionel Willison and Steve Gallagher for their help in putting it up. The sign stands on Highland Street, on the nature strip just west of the entrance to the railway station, and will provide information about events in Tallong. Thanks also to the Veolia Mulwaree Trust which contributed half of the cost of the sign.

First up...

One of the first events to note is the **annual general meeting of the TCFG** which will be held in the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on **Thursday 6th September**. We're looking for a big turn-out, as the Focus Group is your voice in the community which is dedicated to promoting, advocating and fostering community interests in Tallong.

Please note that all positions will become vacant at the AGM, and you are encouraged to join the Committee for the 2012/13 year. The TCFG Committee is fun as well as progressive. For the Tallong Apple Day Festival to continue to thrive we would urge the community members to become members of that organizing committee. We need new ideas and it is a most rewarding community activity. Please contact secretary@tallong.com.

Calling all members...

Now is the time to renew your TCFG membership, if you have not already done so. The more members we have, the more clout we have, and that is vitally important when dealing with the authorities.

We are an open, inclusive and transparent group. Any member can arrange to attend Committee meetings to raise issues and you can arrange to review Focus Group documents and books.

TCFG membership at a mere \$2.50 a head is a bargain.

Safely to school...

The new school footpath on Bumballa Street leading to Tallong's public school has been installed and is proving very popular. School principal Sue Matthews says it is wonderful now for the students to have a choice to walk or ride safely to school.

Sue has also welcomed the decision by the Regional Director to allow the School to keep its demountable building as it provides an extra educational space as well as being a warm and sheltered indoor place for cold, wet and windy days.

RFS burn-off training...

Recent night-time proscribed burn-offs conducted by the Tallong Rural Fire Service have offered invaluable training for brigade members. In addition to pump and hose drills, the burn-offs provide challenging situations for crews and drivers in the varied locations involved.

Squeezing a 14 tonne Cat1 Tanker through a gate in a residential neighbourhood is no easy task in broad daylight, and in a quiet cul-de-sac on a moonless night it becomes even more difficult, Narrow country lanes and off-road rural locations present their own unique challenges, but drivers who have passed the RFD (Rural Fire Driver) course are usually assigned these tasks.

The RFD course is just one of many available to RFS volunteers. Others include Chainsaw Proficiency, Electrical Workshop, First Aid and Aviation Support.

Tallong RFS in Memorial Drive welcomes visitors and potential new members every Tuesday at 7.30 pm.

Railway Experiences...

The Focus Group has been asked to co-ordinate all the correspondence relating to residents' experience with travelling on the railways from the Tallong station. This covers the station itself, timetables and anything else you think RAILCORP should be aware of. Please leave your response in the TCFG letterbox or contact secretary@tallong.com.

TALLONG COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUP INC. – Membership subscription form:

I/We.....
of.....

contact telephone number and/or

Email.....

apply for membership of the TALLONG COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUP INC with such membership expiring at the 2013 Annual General Meeting.

I/We agree to pay the annual subscription of \$2.50 per person and be bound by the rules of the Association

Signed.....

Date.....

Please complete and leave in the Focus Group letterbox at the Tallong General Store with the subscription fee.

Attachment 3 Report on the Peppertree Quarry CCC meeting on August 1, 2012

The following are 100% complete: Development of the borrow pit; the 10m noise bund; preparation for the processing plant. The rail embankment and corrodor are 90% complete. Balast is being prepared for the railway and the sand plant development has been approved. Sandvik has been appointed as the main contractor.

The rain event of Mar 1, 2012 in which sediment was washed into the creek was investigated by AECOM and the Uni of Canberra with the recommendations that sediment is removed above the weir with rehabilitation due to plantings and photographic records be kept downstream of the weir.

There were no noise issues with recent rock blasts. Top soil monitoring is being undertaken. An aboriginal heritage management plan is underway with an archaeologist being hired. The ecology plans are being reviewed. In term so the Community, once the stake holder plan is endorsed meetings will be held with community groups and concerned individuals. Information will be available on the Peppertree Quarry website:

http://www.boral.com.au/Article/ACM_Marulan_Welcome.asp.

In the next three months there will be a newsletter issued for the community, the Medway siding extension, the primary crushing plant and high voltage lines to the site will be completed. Construction will continue on the process plant and ore silos.

Attachment 4

Tallong Thursday 12 July 2012

Meeting with Michael Kennedy
Co-ordinator
Tallong Streetscape Volunteer Group.

Will Singleton
Manager Human Resources (Workplace Health & Safety/Public Liability/Risk Management)
Also present: Rod Weatherstone – Acting Supervisor Parks.

Mr Kennedy identified that the Tallong Streetscape Volunteer Group was aware that there are parts of the village in which they are not allowed undertake work because of liability issues. He also accepted that there are some jobs that the Group would like to do but cannot because it is work that is done by the Council staff (and therefore is an industrial matter).

Two main issues identified in his undated letter to Jason Moroney on behalf of the group were discussed and the following were my responses:

1) Options regarding training or certification to be allowed to work roadside.

Roadside work cannot be done by the group. The reasons behind this are:

- (a) As a group of volunteers working under the auspices of the Council they are taking some work that would normally be done by Council staff. (It is acknowledged that there are roadside areas that the Council staff do not currently maintain).
- (b) The Group would not be allowed to undertake the work along Highland Way – insurances do not cover volunteers to do this work and if there was an accident or incident the Group would not be covered – meaning that the individual would be liable and responsible for any legal action taken against them.
- (c) The Council will provide appropriate training if there is a need for the volunteers to be trained in some aspects of the authorized work that they do.

2) Would the Council take over the work that cannot be done by the Group?

It is acknowledged that it has been some years since there was an assessment of the work that was to be done in the village. It is agreed that the Rob Hughes and Jason Moroney would undertake an assessment of the work

that the Council is currently undertaking and also consider the identified needs of the Streetscape Group. This would then be taken to the group for discussion and planning.

The Council does have time and financial constraints that will have to be considered. There is every intention to assist the Tallong community.

Also:

3) *The clearing of the block behind the RFS station.*

There are native plants and vegetation in the block that should be retained. This will require an inspection of the block before any decisions are made. It is recognized that it is very untidy at present, there is a lot of rubbish in there, and it is probably a reptile haven as well. It is also acknowledged that the group does not want to *clear-fell* the block – just clean it out a bit and make it look ‘cared for’ by removing scrub and rubbish (and reduce it being a snake haven!).

Jason Moroney has already indicated that he will organize and undertake an inspection of the block.

Mr Kennedy is genuinely keen to abide by the rules where the Group is concerned and indicated that this is the view of the Group as a whole. Their intention is to improve the appearance of the village and to work with the Council in achieving this.

Mr Kennedy identified the following as tasks that they would like to see done:

- a) Whipsnip along the railway fence (Highland Way)
- b) Trim trees from the footpaths and around telegraph poles
- c) Remove numerous saplings away Highland way and footpath.
- d) Mowing and whipsnip more of Highland Way (to village sign?)
- e) Mulwaree Drive – roadside growth.

Finally Mr Kennedy is aware that if any people in the village do decide to mow, whip snip or clear vegetation near the roads or undertake similar activities, the work is not condoned by the Council and it cannot be done under the auspices of the Tallong Streetscape Volunteer Group (a volunteer group that is under the auspices of the Council).

The Council will take no responsibility for individuals operating outside the auspices of the Streetscape Volunteer Group.

The Council recognizes that very valuable contribution that the Tallong Streetscape Volunteer Group makes to the community. There is no intention to restrict or prevent the work that is offered and done by the volunteers, however it is important that the Council and the volunteers operate within the legal and industrial constraints that are part of our lives.

Will Singleton
Manager Human Resources

