

# Tallong Community Focus Group Newsletter

## November 2014

### **Outreach Outcomes...**

A big crowd turned out for the Goulburn Mulwaree Council Outreach meeting in Tallong and many issues were canvassed. Goulburn Mayor and local Tallong landholder Geoff Kettle urged the community to take full advantage of the \$46,092 cash provided by the GMC under its Community Village Funds scheme.

The money can be spent anyway the Community wishes, but any project must have community support. At the moment, the Focus Group has submitted a list of proposals but the scheme is open to any group who can put up a good case.

The immediate priority for the Focus Group is to preserve and restore the two memorial pine trees at the entrance to Memorial Drive. They were planted probably in the early 1920s as a commemoration to people from the Tallong district who fought as ANZACs, in particular those who died and are buried overseas.

Protection of the trees has become more urgent with the incredibly stupid behaviour by someone to daub blue and red paint in an act of graffiti madness. Why anyone would do something so disrespectful is hard to fathom. But first the GMC has to decide on whose land the trees stand.

Roads were another issue at the Outreach meeting. The re-opening of the Old Tallong Road was suggested but GMC General Manager Warwick Bennett said Council had not yet assessed the proposal. Another speaker, concerned about the flooding of the part of Highland Way that passes under the viaduct at the start of the village, suggested that one solution could be to construct a second lane through another archway of the viaduct. Warwick Bennett announced that

there will be further marking of white lines down the centre of a number of roads in the Tallong district, which will be particularly useful in winter.

### **Fireweed concerns...**

Several residents are concerned about the increasing proliferation of fireweed. In 2003, fireweed, with each flower producing 100 to 500 seeds, was unknown on Caoura Road. Today, one resident spends six hours every weekend hand pulling and bagging the plants.

The issue was raised at the Outreach meeting with a suggestion that fireweed would be relatively easy to control with proper spraying. A GMC official noted that there is a problem. An inspection is to be conducted in early December.

### **State election...**

The NSW state election will be held on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March next year and the latest polling is showing that Premier Mike Baird's first term government will probably be returned. In Goulburn, our local seat that covers Tallong, the sitting member and Minister for Planning Pru Goward is facing a high profile Labor candidate, a former ALP Senator, Dr Ursula Stephens.

What would anyone think about inviting all Goulburn candidates to a debate here in Tallong next year? It might be a good opportunity to ask them how they plan to improve rail services in the southern tablelands, between Goulburn and Sydney?

Also in the light of the likely amalgamation of councils in NSW, how would the candidates propose to safeguard our future in this changing political environment? Mayor Geoff Kettle noted there are 157 councils in

NSW, 47 in Sydney. But the trend is towards reducing the number of councils by amalgamation.

Anyone interested in a debate being organised next year, please email me: [lombard.john@gmail.com](mailto:lombard.john@gmail.com)

### **Apple Day Festival...**

Planning has already begun for next year's Apple Day Festival on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2015. It will have an added significance in that it is our 10<sup>th</sup> Festival, a remarkable achievement. This is Tallong's fun day for all the family that recognises the village's apple tradition.

Tallong's Apple Day Festival is an important event in raising funds for various local community groups like the Rural Fire Service, the Memorial Hall, the Public School and St Stephen's Church.

An important Apple Day meeting will be held very soon, next **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm in the Memorial Hall**. It is a public meeting and we would like as many people as possible to contribute in any of a dozen different ways. It is a community event and the meeting is a chance for everybody to have a say, offer some new ideas, and make a difference. If you have suggestions and are unable to come to the meeting, please jot them down and put them in the TCFG letterbox at the General Store or email them to [northman@goulburn.net.au](mailto:northman@goulburn.net.au).

So far, we have begun to encourage stallholders to book their sites. We have ordered advertising for the month of April in the Goulburn and Campbelltown cinemas. Thanks to promotions like these, we are getting increasing numbers of visitors from the western suburbs of Sydney.

But there is still a lot to be done. Volunteers need to be organised, sponsors found, attractions booked, parking found, food stalls to be encouraged as well as handcrafts

and speciality stalls. We will be promoting another Fleece to Garment competition with competitors again coming from the South Coast, Goulburn, Canberra and the Tumut region.

A signature event is the annual Apple Day Sculpture competition. And now is definitely the time to start planning. After all, there's a \$500 first prize. The work, of course, must involve an apple somewhere. All entries must stand at least 1.5m high (which may include a plinth) and not more than 2.5m wide/deep and be able to withstand at least one month in the open.

As usual there will be music in several venues at the Festival and the traditional big attractions of the Mrs T Bake-off plus dozens of other baking competitions which cover pies, cakes, tarts, chutneys etc.

So, come along on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November and help create the biggest and best Apple Day Festival. And if anyone has any influence, can we have a clear warm sunny day for Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Please!

### **Christmas party...**

The Tallong Community Focus Group Christmas party is set down for Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December from noon to 3pm at the Memorial Hall. Everybody is welcome.

There will be a light lunch, BYO drinks, and as always a visit from Santa who will be hitching a ride on one of the RFS's fire trucks. There'll be lots of children's entertainment.

We're inviting guests to make a gold coin donation and all money collected will go to the Red Cross, Goulburn.

So book now – or at least before Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December. **RSVP Margaret on 4841 0324 or [northman@goulburn.net.au](mailto:northman@goulburn.net.au)**