

Tallong Community Focus Group Newsletter May 2013

Community Magic...

What a fabulous day! Drove of people, a record number of stalls, some new attractions, lots of old ones, a record number of events, marvellous music, and brilliant sunny autumnal weather. We would not have asked for more.

The main credit goes to the Apple Day Festival Convenor Mike Kennedy, who has worked tirelessly for years to make this Festival one of the highlights of the Southern Highlands calendar. Thanks Mike.

TCFG President Margaret Botticchio believes a key to the success is the support of the whole community.

“With Apple Day, and the same goes for Anzac Day, you really get the sense that our community comes alive,” she says. “The Apple Festival properly represents the aim of the Focus Group. And it’s not just us; the Marulan Chamber of Commerce, the Historical Society, the CWA, the RFS, the local schools, and local businesses, they all come together as a strong and active community.”

Thank you also to all the volunteers and our loyal stall-holders. And a big welcome to visitors who came from all over the Southern Highlands, the Illawarra, Sydney, Canberra, Goulburn, Yass and even further away, many for the first time. We hope to see you again in our little corner of paradise!

The inaugural Apple Day Sculpture prize went to the children at the Tallong Public School for their imaginative production of *The Juggler*. The school won a prize of \$500 donated by Boral. Planning is now starting for next year’s Sculpture prize with much greater participation from the wider community.

The Grand Champion in Mrs T’s Bake-off competition was Bronwyn Beard from Wingello. She also won the cakes section, Denise Gallagher, from Tallong, won the tarts & slices section, Rob McDonald, from Tallong, was a quadruple winner in pies, anything male, chutneys, and jams sections, and Kayla Steward, from Tallong, won the children’s section. Highly commended were Susan Lund (twice), Rob McDonald, Geoff Clark, Kim Gardener, and Molly Baker.

There was much greater interest in this year’s revamped Apple Granny of the Year competition in which children from schools in the region were invited to write, draw, paint or sculpt a tribute to their grannies. A special prize was awarded to the Marulan Pre-school for their entry. In the seniors’ group, first prize went to Patrick O’Leary, 2nd prize to Keenan French, and 3rd prize to Riley Tozer. In the juniors’ section, first prize went to Emma Turner, 2nd prize to Zak Tandy O’Neill and 3rd prize to Bella Seeb.

We thank Boral, our major sponsor, and others that included the Goulburn Mulwaree Council, the Marulan Newsagency, Harris Scarfe, Marulan Bakery, Goulburn Ford, Arthead, Funtastic Learning, Tallong, Goulburn Trophies and Sportswear, M&M Earthmoving, Tallong, Megsy’s Painting & Decorating, Tallong, and many more. Finally, a special thanks to Dorothy Godsk who has worked endlessly to clean up Highland Way. Of course, Dorothy’s work wouldn’t be necessary if people didn’t toss garbage out of their car windows when travelling along the road. We now look forward to next year for our ninth Apple Day Festival!

ANZAC Day...

Congratulations to all involved for reviving Tallong’s Anzac Day commemoration at the

Memorial Hall. A large crowd turned up to remember the 26 Tallong locals who served in the Great War.

Goulburn Mayor and Tallong resident Geoff Kettle spoke and wreaths were laid by the Tallong RFS, the Tallong Public School, the Focus Group, the Memorial Hall Trust, and others. It was another fine example of community spirit in action.

These days, Anzac Day is much more than remembering the fallen at Gallipoli. It is a tribute to all Australian service men and women in all theatres of war from the Boer War to Afghanistan as well as those peace-keeping missions around the world where Australians play such an important role.

Vale George...

There have been many tributes among the Tallong community for the late George Thatcher who died recently at the Goulburn Base Hospital at the age of 84. A well-attended memorial gathering at the Memorial Hall heard generous tributes to George's participation in local community groups, his good humour, and his love of Tallong.

At one time, the very popular George was district governor of the local Lions club. In his youth, George was a radio operator in the merchant navy and he travelled widely in the South East Asian region. After settling in retirement in Tallong more than a dozen years ago, George and his wife Maggie were very active in local Tallong affairs. In fact, George was a founder of the organisation that eventually led to the Tallong Community Focus Group.

Apart from Maggie, George's two loves were trout fishing and jazz. He was also an active golfer until quite recently. But after Maggie's death three years ago, George's health deteriorated gradually and recently he began preparing to move to a retirement home. Sadly, a fall at his home in Scribbly Gum Avenue led to him being taken to hospital where it was discovered he was suffering from an

irreversible brain haemorrhage. He is survived by three children.

Forest Ride...

Fresh from participating in Tallong's Apple Day Festival, the RFS Tallong Brigade is gearing up for the annual Wingello Forest Endurance Ride on 25th and 26th of May. During this popular event, horsemen and women have their mounts continually refreshed from troughs filled and refilled by the Brigade's tankers.

The event has gone from strength to strength over the last few years under the tireless direction of local resident Rebecca Hogan.

On the Saturday, there will be introductory rides of 5km, 10km, and 20km starting at noon and on Sunday there will be a 40km training ride with the option of going to 60km plus an endurance ride of 80km starting at 7am.

The rides raise funds for the Tallong Rural Fire Service and it's generously supported by the Wingello Village Store. For more info, see www.highlandsendurance.com.

In the following week, the Tallong Brigade's AGM will be held on Tuesday 4th June at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Ave Fire-shed. All are welcome. Written nominations to the Seceretary, please.

Dear Anonymous...

An unsigned note in the Focus Group box asked if we could put in a pedestrian crossing for children getting off the school bus at the railway station who go to the Tallong store.

The answer is we have taken it up with the Goulburn Mulwaree Council and the Roads & Maritime Services (RMS) in the past, but we were advised that under the current regulations we didn't qualify as to the volume of vehicles and pedestrians involved. But, dear Anonymous, it is something we are prepared to re-visit if there is public support for the idea.