

## Tallong Community Focus Group Newsletter Sept 2013

### From the President:

As the TCFG starts a new year, it is pleasing to see members renewing their membership and in this way expressing their support for the aims of the group. Recently, when seeking people to fill vacant committee places, I have talked with many locals about the aims and objectives of the TCFG and why these aims are important to the community. Happily, the new committee is committed to implementing these objectives over the coming year and is enthusiastic about the benefits this will bring to Tallong. The aims which have come to direct our community services are:

- To consult regularly with and inform the Tallong community;
- To stage social and cultural events;
- To improve community facilities;
- To liaise with the Goulburn Mulwaree Council and other public and business bodies;
- To address, as far as we are able, issues of common concern;
- To care for our natural and historical heritage; and
- To hold regular meetings, conducted in an organised and ethical manner and be financially responsible.

The TCFG committee believes that pursuing these aims creates opportunities for all the residents of Tallong, in their own way, to focus on enhancing our communal life together. Most importantly, the group supports in specific ways local organisations like our School, the RFS, the Hall Trust and the Church. Our primary means of doing this is to organise and run the Apple Day Festival. Despite this event having grown in size and complexity and being our most challenging task in any year, the new committee is determined that Apple Day 2014 will be the best ever. This

year, new members have come forward to fill the positions left vacant by retiring members in the TCFG committee and in the Apple Day subcommittee. To carry on with this supporting role, to hold Apple Day, and to continue into the near future please consider a further commitment by joining with us to achieve not only a splendid Apple Day but to engage with all our goals.

### Thank you and farewell...

On behalf of the readers of the Newsletter, I give thanks to retiring committee members Janet and Dugald Black and Sharyn Ward who have all given outstanding service to this community as Apple Day organisers. I also take this opportunity to farewell Vicky and Mike Kennedy who have held TCFG executive positions and have in their distinctive hands directed other projects and events like the Bush Dance and self-help groups such as the one we call the Streetscape Group. As convener of Apple Day, Mike with Vicky by his side has brought Apple Day through a period of growth and delivered last year's outstanding Apple Day. Mike and Vicky, you have made many friends here, who wish you well in your move and in your new life.

In accordance with the aims above, I bring to your notice a report from the Roads and Maritime Service (RMS) on the Development Application before Council for the property at 15213 Hume Highway. The RMS recommends that the applicant ceases to pursue access via the Hume Highway. Instead, they must purchase crown lands on the Highland Way. Clearly, as the RMS states in the report, any alteration of conditions at the intersection of Highland Way and Hume Highway, which is Tallong residents' only

exit to the north and to the south is a critical concern for people who daily use this intersection. Furthermore, the TCFG has had correspondence with the RMS bringing to their attention several dangerous scenarios for traffic accidents at this intersection. This recommendation would also see the destruction of a woodland habitat for locally endangered flora and fauna species. Members of the TCFG attended the Council's September planning meeting when three speakers from Marulan and Tallong put forward objections to the RMS recommendation. The Council voted on the strength of these objections not to support the RMS recommendation.

Finally, I would like to encourage you to attend the Goulburn Mulwaree Council's Outreach meeting to be held in the Tallong Memorial Hall on the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2013 at 6.30 pm. If for no other reason, it is a good opportunity for Tallong residents to articulate in a loud voice the impact that various council programs have on our community or to simply acknowledge Council assistance as is the case with our new playground facility. Issues recently aired in the newsletter about footpaths and a safe crossing on the Highland Way, the difficulties still experienced with our addressing system, the need for greater safety measures brought about by growth to the school community as well as development applications and government reports that seriously affect our way of life are worthwhile subjects for a developing community voice.

Margaret Botticchio

### **Vale Russell...**

Eight volunteer fire fighters from the Tallong Rural Fire Service provided a guard of honour to farewell Russell Evers who died recently at the Sir Thomas Mitchell nursing home near Menai. The well-attended funeral service at Woronora Cemetery included many of his friends

from Tallong village and his colleagues from his career in aviation and from the Historical Aircraft Restoration Group at Wollongong Regional Airport.

Russell and his wife Edna were one of the first families to buy land and build in the Tallong Park Estate. He was one of the pioneer residents who worked closely with the developer Ken Parker to introduce many of the facilities the residents enjoy today.

Russell joined Tallong Rural Fire Brigade in 1993 and played a leading role in bringing the Brigade into the modern era by introducing computer operations and updated communications systems. His expertise in these fields led him to be secretary from 1997 to 2008.

Russell was an invaluable Brigade member especially during fire situations when he manned the radios and phones, organised relief crews and co-ordinated catering for the crews in the field. Even in his later years, Russell was still the first man into the fire shed in an emergency and it was only in May of this year that he handed in his pager.

Russell was a valued friend and mentor to so many people in the Tallong district and will be sorely missed. Our deepest condolences go to Edna and their family.

### **New Faces...**

As Margaret has mentioned in her message, the Tallong Community Focus Group has farewelled three committee members who have retired after giving dedicated service to the community over many years: Dugald and Janet Black and Sharyn Ward. In their place, the committee is delighted to welcome Paul Holmes who has lived with his family in Tallong for the past 15 years, Jeremy Porter who takes over the job as Treasurer from Dugald, and Chrissie Wurston who has already contributed greatly with the Apple Day Committee.