

## Tallong Community Focus Group Newsletter Feb 2014

### It's time to start sculpting, baking, painting, drawing... now!

This year's Tallong Apple Day Festival on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May is moving into high gear now with entry forms available for a variety of competitions. And there are some surprises planned...for the Apple Day Sculpture competitions, the Apple Granny competition, Mrs T's Bake-off competition. And for the first time this year, the innovative new Fleece to Garment competition.

The **Sculpture competition** is the signature event of the Tallong Apple Day Festival. And this year, we are expanding it to include secondary as well as primary schools. In accordance with the Festival theme, all sculptures must feature an Apple but, of course, it can be done in a variety of ways. There is prize money of \$500 for each winning school, so let's start creating apple sculptures. Just remember they must be able to withstand a month being on display in the open. See [www.tallong.com.au](http://www.tallong.com.au) for entry forms.

Infant children and pre-school from Tallong, Marulan, Wingello, and Penrose have been invited this year to tell us about their Granny, Grandma or Nan in an artistic way. We want the children to commemorate their grandmothers in an artwork on an A4 paper to explore the idea of an **Apple Granny**. The first Granny Smith Apple began with a chance seedling propagated by Maria Ann Smith in 1868 in Eastwood, NSW.

Her new variety was classed as the best cooking apple in Australia. And as the apple is the theme of our festival, there is no better way to commemorate Granny Smith (1799-1870) and her remarkable achievement. All entries must be completed by the end of Term 1. The entries will be displayed and the winners announced at the Apple Festival on 4<sup>th</sup> May. There are generous prizes to be won.

**Mrs T's Bake-off** competition has become a firm Festival favourite and this year there are three categories: Adults general, Primary School students and Secondary School students. Within each category, there are several sections: 1. Cakes, cup-cakes or muffins; 2. Pies, tarts and pastries; 3. Jams, pickles, chutneys, sauces and jellies; and 4. Biscuits, slices and bars. All entries must include an apple as an ingredient. And all entries are to be donated to the Tallong Apple Day Committee for sale to the public at the Festival.

A highlight of this year's Festival will be the new **Back to Back** or **Fleece to Garment** competition. This will involve the shearing of a sheep on the day. Then, teams of spinners and knitters will spin and knit a garment. Other teams will felt a garment straight from the fleece. Speed is everything, so the competition will be hot. We have already got commitments from teams from Goulburn Handweavers and Spinners and the Illawarra Felters. There will be a trophy and other prizes for the winners.

Entry forms for all these competitions will be available online at [www.tallong.com.au](http://www.tallong.com.au) and at the Tallong General Store. So pick one up and get cracking! We look forward to a surge of creative activity!

### Calling Tallong...

NBN Co is moving to introduce high speed internet connections to the Tallong area with a dedicated Fixed Wireless broadband service. Most of Australia will have the benefit of even higher-speed fibre optic cables. NBN Co has approached the Tallong Park Association with a proposal for two sites inside the Park.

One is at the top of Grevillea Place and the other is alongside the water tanks off Mulwaree Drive near Stringy Bark Avenue. The latter is their preferred site.

No decision has been made yet because householders are being consulted. A special general meeting of Tallong Park will make a final decision. Stay tuned!

### **Memories of Tallong Public...**

In October this year, Tallong will celebrate 100 years of its Public School and the organisers are looking for former teachers and students. Are there any from the 1970s to the 1990s who would be prepared to contribute to a book *Memories of Tallong Public* to be published to coincide with the centenary?

Anyone who can help should contact Janet or Dugald on 4841 0613. They are also very interested in any old photographs.

Plans are also being made for a function to celebrate the centenary on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October. More details coming.

### **Congratulations Tallong PS...**

The Public School has won a special commendation in the 2013 Cohesive Community School Award. The prestigious Ministerial Award recognises the efforts of government and non-government schools in promoting cohesive communities and developing social harmony and unity.

### **Anzac Day...**

Is there anybody who can suggest a speaker for Tallong's Anzac Day ceremony? We are particularly looking for someone who can share their memories of family or friends with experience of war service.

### **Kangaroo March 2015...**

Planning is at an advanced level for the Kangaroo Commemorative March next year from Wagga Wagga to Campbelltown. The purpose is to re-enact the Kangaroo Recruiting March centenary in September and October next year.

The March will pass through Tallong on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2015 when several hundred people will walk from Marulan to Wingello. The mission is to pay tribute to local diggers and recognise their contributions and sacrifices in First World War.

### **RFS news...**

RFS President Chris Boland has reminded us that a recent spate of grassfires has once again highlighted the extremely dry conditions of our local region and he is urging renewed vigilance throughout this extended dry period.

Residents are reminded that under no circumstances are burn-offs allowed before the end of March, and in fact NSW RFS can, and will, issue severe penalties for any breach.

TV News showing footage of burning houses on a city's outskirts provide added incentive on a nightly basis to think safety first at all times, especially living as we do in our own beautiful but vulnerable area.

Handy information on all things Fiery may be obtained from [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au) or from our Brigade Captain Kevin Roberts on 0418-221-019.

And on a personal note, the TCFG wishes Chris and Wendy Boland happy times in their move to Cambewarra Village. Over the years, they have been fabulous contributors to the Tallong community. And thank you Chris, particularly, for your work with the RFS. Go well both of you. You will be greatly missed.

### **Vale Jim Watling...**

The Tallong community is mourning the recent death of local stalwart Jim Watling. Aged 77, Jim was the loved husband of Frances, father of Kathleen and John, grandfather of Timothy and Scott, great-grandfather of Bailey.

Jim was a member of the Tallong Fire Brigade that fought the disastrous Chatsbury/Bungonia bush fires of 1965. The fires destroyed many buildings in Tallong and most of the orchards of the area. Eventually, the Watling's orchards recovered and Jim and his wife Fran began selling out of the Big Apple Shed that is still a landmark in the village. The community extends condolences to the Watling family on the loss of Jim.

### **IMPORTANT DIARY DATE:**

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March for Clean Up Australia Day. Meet at 9am at the Memorial Hall.**