

Tallong Community Focus Group Newsletter Sept 2014

ALERT!

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Please note **7pm Thursday 18th September** at the Memorial Hall – the Tallong Community Focus Group's Annual General Meeting. We are looking for as many residents as possible to come along because we have an important agenda.

There is a grand plan to “touch up” the village and its environs, to enhance the appearance of our village. We want to give people driving through an exciting reason to slow down and admire how much we value Tallong. The plan has been developed as a result of last year's request to the Goulburn Mulwaree Council for funds to finish footpaths and provide a safe crossing place on Highland Way.

But a more ambitious plan has been suggested in the advent of funds from the GMC, so we're calling on the whole village to take part in formulating these projects. There will be an outline available at the AGM so members can contribute directly to the final design. Community organisations and residents will also be asked to provide their input.

Projects already on the TCFG agenda include the following:

- The improvement of the welcome signs at each end of Highland Way with some stonework at the base and with a raised garden bed and suitable plantings;
- The completion of the footpaths on the railway side of Highland Way from the station parking area to Railway Parade. This would not only provide a safe walkway through the village but would involve the cleaning up of overgrown edges, blackberry bushes and pine trees. An additional benefit would be to highlight a couple of magnificent Argyle Apple (native to the old County of Argyle) trees that are a native symbol of Tallong's apple orchard heritage;
- A plan to take up and complete the 2009 bush reclamation project carried out by residents on the Bush Block on Highland Way between Caoura Road and Memorial Drive. We hope to make this distinctive by clearing the rubble from the entrance and establishing a meandering walkway through the cutting with bush tucker plantings;
- The corner of Caoura Road and Highland Way to be made into a feature area with stonework, signage and plantings. A suggestion has been made to remind ourselves of the last apple orchard in Tallong by calling it the Jim Watling reserve, park or walkway; and
- The restoration of two memorial pine trees at the entrance to Memorial Drive that were planted probably as part of a commemoration to locals from the Tallong district who fought as ANZACs and particularly those who died and are buried overseas. These trees need some attention and could be part of next year's centenary ANZAC ceremony.

None of this is rocket science, because we have already the makings of a magnificent little corner of paradise in the Southern Tablelands. So it would not take much to implement these improvements and they would make a considerable difference. These will form a major discussion item for the AGM. It is an important opportunity for members of the community to provide constructive ideas on how to improve our village.

So, please come to the AGM. And if you haven't already paid your membership dues or haven't yet joined, please do so at the AGM. It's only \$2.50 per person, a tiny sum to pay for the privilege of contributing to the Tallong community. We need a solid membership base to direct our community activities such as the Tallong Apple Day Festival (first Sunday in May) and our own ANZAC day ceremony, and other issues we support. It is well understood people have jobs, families, hobbies and many demands on their time and not everyone can attend meetings, but everyone can afford two dollars and fifty cents!

Please note that all positions will become vacant at the AGM, so residents are encouraged to join the Committee and give us the benefit of your wisdom. A light supper will be served after the AGM.

And speaking of War memorials, the recent articles and photographs from the *Goulburn Post* that recorded the stories of four young Tallong men who were killed in Flanders and Picardy in World War One are now on our website:

www.tallong.com.au. Press on the word 'history' on the home page.

School centenary celebrations...

Next month, the Tallong Public School will celebrate a centenary of learning at its present site. So, please put the dates – **October Friday 10th and Saturday 11th** – in your diary.

On Friday, the school day will be re-enacted with a 1914 classroom plus sporting activities, morning tea and lunch for current students, parents and visitors. There will be a display of memorabilia that will include an old attendance register, school reports, deeds, and a collection of class photographs over the years.

On Saturday, there will be a luncheon in the Memorial Hall for past students and those with past connections with the school. After lunch activities will include a cricket match, bus rides around places of interest, and the memorabilia display with old school photos and an exchange of stories by students.

Local historian Janet Black is putting together a booklet of memories and stories highlighting school life at the various times since the school began on this site in 1914. A limited edition will be for sale.

RFS News...

The fire season is fast approaching and the Tallong RFB would like to encourage everyone to check your bushfire survival plans and if needed, prepare your property now, rather than wait until the season is upon us. Also don't forget that as soon as the official Bush Fire Danger Period starts on October 1, you will need a permit to conduct any burning activities and new, heavier penalties for not gaining a permit are now in effect this year. If you require a permit, contact the Goulburn Fire Control Centre on (02) 4822 2900.

Also, on August 1, the state government has introduced the new 10/50 legislation. It deals with the clearing of vegetation around homes in bushfire prone areas and allows for the clearing of trees up to 10m and shrubs up to 50m from a home, without seeking approval, provided your home falls within a designated area. You can check if you are affected by using the online tool at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/1050-vegetation-clearing.

We at the brigade would also like to take the opportunity to ask everyone to please take care on our local roads in the wake of the tragic accident that claimed a young life at the viaduct on Highland Way in early August.

Especially in adverse conditions, it is more important that we get home safely than get hurt on the roads.

Please slow down and take care, particularly on bends.

Weird weather...

What a weird month of weather we have had in Tallong. First there was the continuation of a long dry spell dating back to mid-June. This was exacerbated by a near stationary high pressure system over South-eastern Australia between August 2 and 16.

The resulting clear skies lead to some of the coldest mornings we have recorded in Tallong with minimum temperatures plummeting to -6.2°C on August 3 and being below zero on 13 out of 15 mornings.

In Goulburn, the minimum temperatures were even lower, going down to -9.1°C on August 12.

Then the drought broke with a vengeance with over 125 mm recorded at several properties in Tallong between August 17 and 19 only to be followed up with another 60-90 mm some eight days later. Tallong, a land of droughts and flooding rains!

Dancing with and under the Stars...

Finally, a big congratulations to everybody who helped make such a success of this year's Bush Dance, held as a Christmas-in-July event. More than 80 people enjoyed the music of local favourites the Mountain Dew Band, led by Tony Rodwell, who called the dance steps.

About half the participants were children who danced until they nearly dropped! Local girls Sarah Gilson, Georgia Baker, and Madison Chalker showed off their considerable singing talent by performing when the Band took a break.

And popular young local couple Magnus and Bel Agren led special dances for the children with lots of prizes.

We're privileged to have the Mountain Dew Band which is such a hit on Apple Day as well as the Bush Dance. Thanks guys, you were superb... as usual! Let's do it all again next year.