

# Tallong Community Focus Group Newsletter

## April 2015

### Lest we forget...

A big turn out is expected for this year's special ANZAC centenary commemoration at the Tallong War Memorial on Memorial Drive at 10am on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

A highlight will be a display in the Memorial Hall that pays tribute to the 26 men from Tallong who volunteered to fight for King and Country in the First World War. There will be lots of panels with photographs, copies of letters, and newspaper clippings dealing with our Tallong recruits.

There will also be a display of a proposed refurbishment of the war memorial site with an invitation for community input.

The ceremony will remember the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Gallipoli landing which became such a nation-defining event. The deeds and sacrifice of the young men and women of Australia in the First World War set an example for all Australians. Since then, the ANZAC spirit has accompanied other Australians in many other conflicts in World War Two, in Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War and Afghanistan. Even today, Australian forces are involved in the American-led international military intervention against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

The ANZAC program will include poems from Tallong Public School students, and several addresses.

David Leese, a past president of the Focus Group, will invite the audience to listen to the voices of 1915; the acting Principal of the Tallong Public School Leishah Matthews will talk about the ANZAC legend; David Woods, the inaugural president of the Focus Group, will speak of his own family's experiences with the ANZACS at Gallipoli; and John Lombard will speak about his search on the Western Front for the final

resting places of four young Tallong men who died there. A book with photographs about his journey, *Tales of Tallong*, will be available (\$10). Profits go to the Focus Group. Copies are available now at the Tallong General Store and the Marulan Newsagency.

Morning tea, coffee and ANZAC biscuits will be served after the ceremony. There will be soft drinks for children.

Don't forget: **ANZAC Day 10am Memorial Drive, Tallong.**

### Tallong's on the move again...

The Goulburn Mulwaree Council has given in principle approval to an ambitious development plan for the village that has been proposed by the Tallong Community Focus Group. The theme will be the apple-growing heritage of the Tallong district. In the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Tallong was a centre for orchardists. In 1917, the apple crop was estimated to have been 10,000 cases.

The village won first place for both apples and pears at the Royal Agricultural Show in Sydney in 1925 and 1926. Sadly, a series of disastrous bush fires that raged 50 years ago this year, in March 1965, destroyed Tallong and most of the surrounding orchards.

Plans have been drawn up to develop the bush area behind the Rural Fire Service shed by clearing it and replacing it with tree planting, walk ways and a car park space. Council approval is conditional on the work being done by the Tallong community under the supervision of the Council's Recreation Business Unit. But the Focus Group will also be seeking some grants to help pay for the work.

So, the Focus Group wants as many volunteers as possible to make it all possible!

Another proposal is to make an artistic heritage area along Caoura Road that will include the Jim Watling Walk (in acknowledgement of the late local orchardist). The Big Apple will be re-erected on a suitable base and cleaned up.

Details of the plans will be a feature display of the Focus Group stall at the Apple Day Festival next month (Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May) when visitors will be invited to comment.

While on the topic of changes, a very welcome grant of \$2000 from the Southern Phone company is being used to restore the historic memorial trees at the entrance to Memorial Drive. The GMC has now trimmed the trees. The council has agreed to install a kerb around the trees to keep mulch back from the road.

## Saluting their Service...

The Focus Group is seeking a grant from the Department of Veteran Affairs under its Saluting Their Service commemorations program that is designed to support projects that highlight the sacrifice of Australia's servicemen and women. Specifically, we want to clean up and improve the War Memorial area.

## Apples galore...

More than 650 kg of apples will be for sale at this year's tenth anniversary Apple Day Festival. They will include juicy Granny Smiths, Royal Gala red apples, and the ever-popular Pink Ladies.

Memo from the Focus Group: there is an urgent need for produce for our stall, jams, chutneys, pickles, and preserves. So, get cooking a.s.a.p. Please phone 0412 477 021 for more information. And we still need lots of volunteers. If you can help, please phone 4841 0131

The program is looking pretty full and entries are coming in for the various competitions. If anybody needs more details, go to the Apple Day

page on the website: [www.tallong.com.au](http://www.tallong.com.au) where you can find entry forms for all the competitions. The most popular are Mrs T's Apple Day Bake-off, the Fleece-to-Garment, the Apple Granny, and the signature event the Boral Sculpture competitions.

Old favourites will include vintage cars, archery for adults and kids, wood chopping and other craft demonstrations.

As usual, the ever-popular local Mountain Dew Band will provide the music.

An innovation this year is a *Tallong's got Talent* show. It's not a competition, just an opportunity to show off Tallong's talent. So, if you can sing, dance, play an instrument, do magic, or have any other stand-up routine that could bring the house down, here's your chance.

Want to know more? Call 4841 0131.

## Changeover of Matthews...

Sue Matthews has left as Principal of the Tallong Public School after five years and moved to Robertson on promotion as Principal there. A good turn out gave her a grand farewell at the Easter Assembly.

Sue said her time at Tallong had been the happiest and most rewarding years of her teaching career.

As a result, Laishah Matthews (no relation!) has been confirmed as Acting Principal of Tallong Public School from the start of Term 2. Laishah has told children and parents she is excited about this opportunity. She said she had been very grateful to students, parents, and community members for the support she and the other staff had received during Term 1.

### Diary Dates:

ANZAC Day 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 10am Memorial Drive

10<sup>th</sup> Apple Day Festival Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 9am to 3pm.