

Tallong Community Focus Group Newsletter

November 2015

Awaiting Community response!

Members of the Tallong Community Focus Group at the annual general meeting strongly endorsed plans for revitalising our village. Now it's time for all residents in the general community to have their say. So, please have a look at the plans and send all feedback to secretary@tallong.com.au or drop your ideas into the TCFG box at the Tallong General Store.

Just over a year ago, Tallong was allocated more than \$46,000 over three years as part of the Goulburn Mulwaree Council's funding of Village improvements in the local government area.

Projects for Tallong need to start and finish within this period. The ANZAC memorial project is complete and the war memorial restoration project awaits the Department of Veteran Affairs assessment of Tallong's grant application. This contains detailed plans and historically researched corrections as well as quotes.

We have received encouraging letters of support from our local Federal MP, Angus Taylor, Gordon Wade OAM of Goulburn RSL, and Louise Wakefield, director of planning and development at the GMC.

An application for a grant of up to \$4000 has been lodged with the Department of Veteran Affairs under their Service Commemorations Program to cover the cost of replacing two World War 11 metal plaques and the building of a sandstone wall to house a raised garden bed with plantings of a rosemary hedge, red carpet roses, and prostrate rosemary at the War Memorial. It is hoped to have the work done in time for next year's ANZAC day ceremony.

So, where can the plans be seen? Detailed drawings have been pinned on the notice board at the Tallong General Store. They have also been posted on the Current Projects page of the revamped Focus Group section on our website: www.tallong.com.au. Please take the

opportunity to look at them and participate in these projects.

There are four. The drawings relate to: 1) the Memorial Park upgrade; 2) the Welcome to Tallong walls; 3) the Tallong Railway Carpark upgrade; and 4) the War Memorial upgrade.

These are all significant projects that will improve the look and attractiveness of the village of Tallong. They will highlight the strong community support that Tallong enjoys and will acknowledge Tallong's apple heritage.

It is proposed to have a public meeting open to residents before the February business meeting of the TCFG that is held on the third Thursday of the month. Details will be announced nearer the time.

Tallong welcomes the Kangaroo Marchers...

This was a hugely successful day when the Marchers moved from an overnight in Marulan to lunch in Tallong and then on to Wingello for another night stopover.

On a beautiful spring morning, children from the Tallong Public School welcomed the marchers and their support contingent as they arrived in Tallong along an old bush track. They then moved onto the Highland Way and up Memorial Drive for a BBQ lunch provided by the RFS, the TCFG and the P&C. The meal was so popular and the dessert so good we were eaten out of house and home!

A highlight was the magnificent historical display carefully curated by local historian Janet Black with many wonderful photographs showing what Tallong was like one hundred years ago.

Before leaving, the marchers with local participation held a moving ceremony that finished with a dedication of the new memorial plaques to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the ANZAC legend. Then, at 2pm, they set off down Old Wingello Road for Wingello and

the next stage of their 36-day 520-km walk to Campbelltown.

“Pure vandalism...”

After such a successful day, it was hugely disappointing that just one week later the concrete kerbing around the memorials on either side of the entrance to Memorial Drive was smashed. Happily, the actual memorials were not touched. But an angry Geoff Kettle, mayor of Goulburn and long-time Tallong landowner, described the attack as “pure vandalism of the worst kind.”

For many Tallong residents, the damage was shameful and offensive, particularly to those whose relatives fought in two World Wars. The incident certainly leaves a bad taste when considering the possibility that anyone in the community would even consider such an act.

No more, please. Lest we forget!

New Committee...

A new committee was elected at the annual general meeting of the Focus Group: president Margaret Botticchio; vice president Lionel Willison; secretary Christine Wurston; treasurer Jeremy Porter; and committee members Kim Gray, Sue Nagy, and Noel Demamiel.

Focus Group members at the 2014 AGM had highlighted guiding principles for the village improvements that include safety, heritage, tourism, and amenities. These principles were carried through the projects’ development and were evident at the recent AGM.

Diary dates...

Several items for the diary: the Goulburn Mulwaree Council’s next outreach meeting in Tallong is set down for 6.30pm on Tuesday 10th November at the Memorial Hall. It is an ideal opportunity to have a less formal open discussion with Councillors and senior staff. If there is a particular issue you would like to raise, please contact Amy Croker on 4823 4486 or at amy.croker@goulburn.nsw.gov.au.

The second is the annual Children’s Christmas party that will be held at the Memorial Hall on Sunday 29th November at 4pm. There will a RFS special sausage sizzle and a Pavlova

dessert. There will be drinks for the kids, tea and coffee, BYOG for adults.

Although this event is centered on the children it is also an opportunity to get together with neighbors. Please come along and enjoy the party! As usual, Santa with his sack of toys will make his grand arrival on board a fire truck.

And the third is Monday 16th November, 7pm at the Memorial Hall, for the first meeting to plan next year’s Apple Day Festival which will be a May Day event on Sunday, 1st May.

Anyone with ideas for improving the Festival, which is the main fund-raising event for local community groups like the RFS, the Public School, and the Church should come along.

Apples galore...

Good news for our apple heritage. The new owners of the former Watling orchard, Bel and Magnus Agren, are planning to have some “Open Orchard” days early next year where people can come and pick their own apples.

Tallong residents and visitors will again be able to buy apples from a local orchard. The trees have been pruned and sprayed. So, fingers crossed for a good crop again this season!

End of school...

The annual end of year presentation assembly will be held at Tallong Public School on Friday 11th December, which will be followed by a volunteer ‘thank you’ morning tea on Monday 14th December.

The last day of school will be Wednesday 16th December. Happy holidays pupils and staff!

Fire restrictions...

From the 1st October, when the bush fire danger period began, if you’re planning to light a fire in the open, you need a fire permit. This requires a phone call to the local fire control centre.

In our case, it is the Yass fire control centre on 6226 3100. And make sure you have a bush fire survival plan.

Photos of the Kangaroo March by Geoff Walsh and Sue & Noel De Mamiel:



Arrival at Tallong



Right turn up Memorial Drive



Met by Tallong Public Schoolchildren



Janet Black with her exhibition of Tallong 100 years ago



Goulburn Mayor Geoff Kettle and TCFG President Margaret Botticchio and the newly dedicated ANZAC memorial



The top of the newly dedicated ANZAC memorial



The newly dedicated ANZAC memorial at the entrance to Memorial Drive