

TALLONG TWITTERINGS – OCTOBER 2016

A HISTORICAL DISASTER TALE

This month in Tallong's history shows how events on one side of the world can have far reaching effects on the other. In 1859, Robert Pitt Jenkins was the owner of *Bumballa* and *Bosworth*, properties which extended from what is now Wingello State Forest to the Shoalhaven escarpment, about 6,500 acres in all. In late August 1859, Robert, his wife Mary and their four sons sailed for England on the steam clipper *Royal Charter*, intending to visit their daughter, Alice, who was being educated in Paris.

The *Royal Charter* was nearing Liverpool when she sailed into what is considered the most severe storm in the Irish Sea during the 19th century. On the night of 25 October 1859, the winds rose to Force 12 on the Beaufort scale and the *Royal Charter* was driven onto rocks on the north coast of Anglesey. Battered by huge waves she soon broke up. Over 450 people died, including all Jenkins family members on board. Alice, now orphaned, inherited her father's estate and returned to Australia to be cared for by relatives.

In the late 1860s, Alice married Hubert de Castella, from the French speaking part of Switzerland. The couple settled in Victoria where her fortune was spent on establishing a vineyard, a massive house and large scale entertaining. The Tallong properties were sold in 1871, ending the involvement of one of the earliest families in the district. Interestingly, Robert de Castella is their great grandson.

P&C SAUSAGE SIZZLE AND CAKE STALL

The recent Council elections provided a reason for Tallongites to gather for friendly chats, have a bite to eat at the P&C Sausage Sizzle and Cake Stall and, of course, to vote at the Memorial Hall. The Tallong Public School P&C thanks the community for their support, by donations of baked items and purchases from the stall, with a profit of \$961 being made on the day.



RURAL FIRE BRIGADE NEWS

Tallong Rural Fire Brigade consists of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds and are always ready to respond to fires and MVAs (motor vehicle accidents) when called out. Brigade members meet at the Fire Shed every Tuesday at 7.30pm. All are welcome to come along and see what happens at the local RFB and find out how they can help.



Tallong Fire Shed, Memorial Drive, Tallong with Tallong 1 Bravo out the front.

The fire season is coming up and once daylight saving starts Brigade members will start polishing their skills in earnest, as well as training new volunteers. Extra funds are always

needed to keep the bills paid and to keep up to date with the latest technology, so the local Brigade also raises funds by offering catering services as well as taking part in community events like Tallong Apple Day and the annual Tallong Christmas Party. Volunteers to help with these fund-raising events are always appreciated.

Tallong RFB office bearers for 2016 are:

Captain – Kevin Roberts

President – Robert Harmond

Vice President – Lee-Anne Dalton

Training Co-Ordinator - Paul D'Alcorn

Secretary - Alan Weston