

Tallong Community Focus Group Newsletter May 2012

WOW! What a day...

This year's Tallong Apple Day Festival has broken all records... Record crowds (about 3000), a record number of attractions (more than 60 stalls), record funds for distribution (more than \$7500)... and the most beautiful autumn day that only Tallong can put on.

But don't take the Committee's word for it. Here's feedback from some stall holders:

My takings were up on last year's which was great. I sincerely hope that you put my name down for next year. I would hate to miss it.

Thank you once again for the great job you do in organising the festival; it is one of the best organised events that I attend.

Congratulations on a great apple day effort.

This was my first time as a stall holder & I have no complaints. I was pleasantly surprised with my takings.

Overall it was a great day and we'd like to come again if you'd like us to.

This was our first time at this event and we had a fantastic day.

This was the first time we had attended and we have noted it on our calendar for next year.

We had a great day. It was a well organised, well run event and we were told by other stall holders that had attended before that it was improving every year.....this year being no exception!

We had a great day at this very well organised event, we wish that all markets & events were as well organised as yours. Our takings were good, and we would love to participate again in your future events.

So, stand tall, people of Tallong. Your community spirit is a credit to everybody. Apple Day Festival Coordinator Michael Kennedy says a special vote of thanks goes to all the volunteers who gave up their time to make the Festival the success it was.

The festival was opened by local Tallong resident and Mayor of Goulburn Geoff Kettle and blessed by the Rector of St Stephen's Church, Tallong, Rev Jeremy Tonks. Local State MP Pru Goward, the Minister for Community Services and Minister for Women, spoke about the value of community spirit.

The Tallong Community Focus Group would like to thank all our sponsors, in particular Essential Energy, Boral Peppertree Quarry, the Good Guys, Goulburn Ford, Highland Tenpin Bowling, Peppers Manor House, Centennial Vineyards, Adrienne Way Quilting, Marulan Driver Training Centre, Marulan Newsagency, Alan Weston signs, Tallong General Store, M&M Earthworks, Santa Sabina College, Marulan Rural Supplies, Goulburn Trophies & Sportswear, Radio 2ST, Sue Jones, Wendy Boland & Nerida Tipping.

As Essential Energy's regional general manager Phillip Green noted: "We are committed to supporting events such as the Tallong Apple Festival which bring great benefit to the local community."

So say all of us. Beneficiaries from the day's takings include the Tallong Rural Fire Service, the Tallong Public School, Tallong Memorial Hall, St Stephen's Church, and other charitable organisations in the district.

If you would like to participate in helping to organise this event next year, please raise your hand to join the Apple Day Festival committee by contacting the Secretary on 4841 0577 or Email: secretary@tallong.com.au It will be a most rewarding experience.

And the winners are...

Major contributors to the day's success were some new competitions. For example, the pie eating contest was very popular, so much so that we waived the restriction on only children taking part. Some more mature pie lovers showed their expertise in polishing off one of our national treasures in quick time!

The pie eating winner was Nathan Mula from Blacktown. Congratulations Nathan.

Another good news story was the Tallong Apple Granny of the Year, established to commemorate Granny Maria Ann Smith who by chance in 1868 propagated the variety of apple that bears her name.

Guest visitor John Kerin, who in the 1970s was the Federal MHR for the Tallong district, crowned the winning Granny, Elise Porter from Mittagong. Elise was nominated by her grandson Josh Porter who is a pupil at the Tallong Public School.

Apples on Facebook...

Another innovation this year was making use of Facebook with our own Tallong Apple Festival page. It was a great success. One stall holder noted that once he had "liked" the page, news of the Apple Festival immediately went out to another 260 people who are likers of his page.

It is a great form of advertising and all it costs is time! Next year, we will encourage stall holders to add "Follow us on Facebook" to anything they send out. The ripple effect is well worth while.

The Tallong Community Focus Group stall did good business. Our community responded magnificently, resulting in a wide range of goods on sale. The TCFG committee wants to send out a big THANK YOU to everyone who donated items or worked on the stall.

Biggest Morning Tea – May 29, Tallong Memorial Hall at 10am

Come along and support Cancer research and prevention.

RFS news...

This year has seen a relatively quiet fire season, thank goodness! But the Tallong Rural Fire Brigade isn't taking any chances. The unusually high rainfall during the summer months means that the fuel build-up may become a matter of some concern next season.

So, it was decided at the recent annual general meeting of the RFS to continue meeting every Tuesday evening throughout the winter months and the first Tuesday of each month has been designated an Intensive Training night.

The following were elected: President Chris Boland, Vice President Paul D'Alcorn, Secretary Jim Humphreys, Treasurer Ann Tallon, Brigade Captain Kevin Roberts, Senior Deputy Captain Ian Palk, Deputies Paul D'Alcorn, Sean McNulty and Jenny McNulty.

Community sign approved...

A new sign will be erected shortly near the entrance to the Tallong railway station to provide information about Community activities.

The Tallong Community Focus Group is very grateful to the Veolia Mulwaree Trust for agreeing to fund half the cost of a new Community messages sign. The community sign will carry notification of events in Tallong and provide details of our community activities. The total cost is \$5200 and our half of the cost will come from Focus Group funds and money raised at this year's successful Apple Day Festival.

Community Meeting in June...

Please put Tuesday, 26 June 2012 in your calendar when it is planned that the Men's Shed from Goulburn will give a brief presentation followed by an SES person (on flood preparation), RFS (on bush-fire preparation) and the Red Cross (on REDI-Plan). Come along at 7pm to a warm Tallong Memorial Hall with a light supper to follow. More details later.

