

Tallong Community Focus Group Newsletter

September October 2012

After the TCFG AGM

Congratulations to the new Tallong Community Focus Group Committee, in particular to Sue Nagy, who has been newly elected to the committee. The new committee has been reduced with the resignation for personal reasons of long serving Secretary, Geoff Clark. The President thanked Geoff for his tireless work for the Tallong Community, noting that Geoff has carried out all secretarial roles to an exceptional level and was for one year Apple Day Festival Committee Convenor. As correspondence secretary Geoff has done much to strengthen the community's ties with other local organisations and government bodies.

A suggestion to involve the community in the planning for events, projects and issues

The suggestion that the community might offer constructive advice to the Committee about events, projects or issues that are in the planning stages was a welcome one to the committee. To attract more community feedback and to improve communication with our members, and the community, has been on the agenda for some time. The Committee has decided to trial a 30 minute time slot before a regular monthly business meeting where members can directly address any of their concerns to the committee. To make the most of this opportunity there are some ground rules.

The half hour is only open to members before a nominated monthly Management Committee meeting. If a member has questions that require a detailed answer, notice should be given in writing, at least one week in advance so the Committee can respond fully. Similarly, If a member wants to raise an issue or make some constructive comments on the work of the Committee, or if an extension of time is required it would be appreciated if an outline of the presentation was given one week in advance so the topic can adequately be addressed in the time available.

The first trial meeting will be publicised through the newsletter and by email or letter box drop to members without email. Non-members can always submit questions or suggestions in writing for the Committee's

consideration. Please see the tear off section at the end of the Newsletter.

Village Noticeboard

Two people have complained about the placement of the new Village Noticeboard, but to be fair a great many more have welcomed it. The Tallong Public School has been one immediate beneficiary. The TPS used it with great effect to promote the recent Education Week Open Day. The result was that the school had its best ever attendance for an occasion which opens the school to the community.

Another suggestion from member feedback at the AGM was to develop a list of criteria for the use of the Notice Board. Notices would include the publicising of events staged by different Tallong community groups, such as the Focus Group, the Rural Fire Brigade, the Memorial Hall Trust, the Tallong Public School the church and so on. Also it could be used to promote community activities in nearby villages, such as the Marulan Kite Festival and regional/state/federal events such as elections and where to vote. It could also highlight significant achievements by Tallong residents, such as participation in the Olympics, the Paralympics, and Eisteddfods but **not** personal events or advertising like birthdays or garage sales. Perhaps you as readers of this newsletter have some suggestions to make?

Planning for Apple Day Festival 2013

The TCFG has invited Michael Kennedy to convene a subcommittee which will make next year's Apple Day Festival happen. Focus Group Committee members have offered to be part of his team as well as a representative from TPS and one from the TRFS brigade. The subcommittee would very much welcome any ideas about how to improve or develop the Apple Day Festival which has become a most important annual event for the Tallong community. Please put any suggestions you might have in the TCFG letter box at the Tallong General Store. Even if you've been only once to an Apple Day Festival and saw something you think could be done better, we want to hear about it. We want you and your ideas. It's your Community; the Apple Day Festival is fun. So get involved.

The Kangaroo March 1914 and the centenary Anzac Day 2015

Planning has started for a re-enactment of the 1914 Kangaroo March, a World War 1 recruiting drive from Wagga through Goulburn and down the Highland Way to Picton, in 2014. TCFG is in the planning stages of holding an Anzac ceremony at the Memorial beside the Hall on Anzac Day 2013. Tallong has been invited to participate in activities during the March in 2014 and also to hold a special commemorative ANZAC service like those held across the nation in 2015. In the light of the Tallong community's building of the Tallong Memorial Hall in 1919, the placing of the Honour Roll in the Hall and the men from Tallong who served in the First World War as well as our own personal connection with the Anzacs; help us make Tallong's marking of these nation defining events a very meaningful occasion.

High Tea in Tallong and a slide talk about treasures of our bush

The planned supper/talk originally scheduled for Thursday 4th October has had to be brought forward to November. The new date and time is: **Saturday 3rd November at 4pm** at the Tallong Memorial Hall when we'll have High Tea with two local experts: Alan Stephenson, President of Australian Native Orchid Society (ANOS) and fellow member of ANOS and Naturalist Denis Wilson. They will conduct a slide talk on these treasures of the Tallong Bush. There will be particular emphasis on our adopted emblem, the Tallong Midge Orchid. The Tallong Midge Orchid *Genoplesium plumosum*, is listed as endangered under Federal and State conservation laws. For catering purposes, please contact secretary@tallong.com.au or ring 48410613 by the 18th of October to secure a delicious afternoon tea and a seat for the talk.

RFS news

Chris Boland says the Tallong Brigade is very grateful for the ongoing support received from the village community. Whilst the NSW RFS provides the vehicles,

basic premises and, of course, the familiar orange Proban Fire Retardant overalls, all other expenses are met by the volunteers themselves. Shed furniture, Personal Protective Equipment, Radios, and Fire Ground Catering Support are just some of the items supported by community donation. In fact, the latest gift from the Focus Group was used to buy and install a new hot water system to replace the old corroded unit, while individual clothing lockers will soon replace their existing plastic tubs. As part of our community the Brigade enjoys participating in village functions, including the highly successful Apple Day festivities when we are able to assist other groups by supplying electric power to at least ten sites, providing First Aid facilities and replenishing the ever thirsty Illawarra Steamers.

Call out...

In early September, Tallong 1 Bravo responded to a triple zero call to assist a Parks Wildlife Team on Caoura Ridge. A hazard reduction burn had burst through its containment lines with the potential to become a serious threat. The Tallong squad of Alan Weston, Carl Wise, Cliff Dankwardt and Maurice Partridge spent a full day fighting the blaze and after establishing new containment lines successfully controlled the outbreak.

After only a few days of spring weather, NSW Fire Brigades have already declared two 24-hour total fire bans throughout the State, again highlighting the importance of constant vigilance against the threat of fire. From 1st October absolutely no burn-offs will be allowed unless a permit has been issued.

Permits may be issued with a phone call to Fire Control on 6226-3100.

All neighbours should be informed either verbally or by a note in the mailbox 24 hours before beginning the burn and a phone call to Tallong Brigade Captain Kevin Roberts on 0418 221 019 is also mandatory after 1st October.

Suggestions for the Tallong Community Focus Group Committee: Please write your ideas with your name and contact details and leave it in the TCFG box at the Tallong General Store.

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