

## **Tallong Twittering August 2016**

In June Tallong Twittering columnist John Lombard stepped down and it was thought that since the TCFG publication of *Tallong a Heritage* quite a bit of research and volunteering of historical information and photos has occurred and we now have an archive full of new material we would like to share with the wider community. A new team give thanks to John by continuing the Tallong Twittering column containing a section of, what's on in Tallong, as well as what happened in a particular month from the historical archive.

Last month in the aftermath of the Apple Day Festival the TCFG distributed funds to local groups, Tallong Rural Fire Brigade, CWA, Memorial Hall Trust and St Stephens Church for specific projects that will benefit the community.

The Tallong community were also beneficiaries as they engaged with two sculptural events over the festival period. Students of TPS participated in designer and environmentalist Berte Larsen's enrichment program centred on the iconic apple. The program explored the apple orchard heritage of Tallong, notions of community engagement and sustainability through the making of Apple Catches and Apple Art Diaries which formed a sculptural installation on the Hall stage.

The second was the restoration of Tallong's Big Apple from Jim Watling's shed by Alan Weston which was on display before it is erected on a specially designed structure marking the newly created Jim Watling Walk as part of the upgrade of Memorial Park.

This month in history brings to your attention, on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1950 the opening of the first bridge over Barbers Creek, on what is now Highland Way, an example of great local community enterprise and cooperation.

The winter of 1950 was extremely wet and the Tallong residents were tired of being regularly isolated due to the flooding of Barbers Creek between Tallong and Marulan and also flooding on the road between Wingello and Tallong. There were also a number of babies due and no guaranteed way to get the mothers to hospital except by walking along the railway line. Being on the border of Wingecarribee and Mulwaree Shires meant that getting approvals for a bridge was very slow.

So the locals built their own. The idea was instigated by Mr. E. Collett on 17<sup>th</sup> June 1950. As he was reported to have said at the opening: 'Twenty or thirty of us decided on the idea on the Saturday morning and work commenced the same afternoon when we started to cut the timber. A month from that date the bridge was trafficable'

The end result was a bridge 21m (70ft) long with corduroy approaches built entirely by volunteer labour with donated timber that was prepared free of charge by the local mill. It did the job well for a number of years but fell into disuse when the Tallong – Marulan road was sealed and a low-level concrete crossing was provided under the railway viaduct. The bridge finally burnt down during the 1965 Chatsbury bushfire.



The builders celebrate. Bridge opening 5<sup>th</sup> August 1950. Mrs Read at extreme left, Mr Kirk at extreme right are the only 2 people positively identified.