

## Tallong Twitterings

### **Santa's coming...**

Diary note: the Tallong Community Christmas Party is on again **12 noon till 3pm Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December**. We've changed it this year to a lunchtime party with barbecue, provided as usual by the Tallong RFS Brigade, with lots of games for the children. Hopefully with fine weather, we will be outside in the park beside the Memorial Hall.

And, of course, Santa will arrive on an RFS fire truck with a sack load of goodies. So please come and celebrate Christmas in Tallong. Kids, make sure you bring your parents along for a good time. Tell them it's BYO with the BBQ but there will be lots of soft drinks as well. For catering purposes, please fill out the form at the bottom of this newsletter and hand it in to the Tallong General Store or email [secretary@tallong.com.au](mailto:secretary@tallong.com.au) or [president@tallong.com.au](mailto:president@tallong.com.au) or phone Lionel on 0418 609 572. So, book early & often! Entry is by a gold coin donation which will go to the Red Cross.

## **Bus or Train?**

Public transport has been a contentious issue for a long time, in particular the demand for increased and better services and connections between Goulburn and Sydney which include the many villages of the Southern Highlands. A recent meeting of Southern Villages Group, hosted by the Tallong Community Focus Group, heard strong arguments for and against buses and trains. Local Goulburn MP Pru Goward told the meeting the biggest issue for the State Government was the capital cost of tracks and trains and the current costs of maintenance and crews. She undertook to get comparative costs for the use of bus and train services but urged local communities to use their websites and newsletters to communicate better with residents about what is currently available. People can also either phone 131500 or visit the Department's website on [www.131500.com.au](http://www.131500.com.au).

Tallong Community Christmas Party 12 noon Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December.

The big question is whether there is enough demand. A free trial service between Tallong and Moss Vale over a three month period was enjoyed by only seven passengers! By contrast, there are now five services a day between Bundanoon and Moss Vale, the bus company's hub.

Pru Goward said there were no plans for any changes to the current rail services or schedules, but any future services would have to be justified on the basis of patronage. Buses are a more economical proposition but the meeting was told that in the small Southern Highland villages such as Tallong about 90 per cent of residents make their own arrangements to drive to Moss Vale or Campbelltown if they are travelling to Sydney. Pru invited local communities to let her know of their wishes for rail and bus services.

## **Apple Day latest...**

TCFG President Margaret Botticchio reports there has been a good response from the many primary and secondary schools in the region to the large sculpture competition that will be the feature event of the Apple Day Festival on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May. The winning primary school and secondary school will receive \$500 each, generously donated by Boral.

All the sculptures must follow the apple theme and be at least 1.5m high (which may include the plinth) and not more than 2.5m wide/deep. They will have to be able to withstand at least one month in all weather and must be able to be placed without the use of heavy machinery.