

Tallong Twitterings

Back to School...

Tallong was first surveyed as a prospective settlement in March 1818 by an expeditionary team under a commission from Governor Lachlan Macquarie. It was his vision that the colony should be as much a settled community as a penal settlement.

Governor Macquarie wanted to be able to grant new land as a reward for effort in developing the colony. He had in mind emancipated convicts as well as free settlers who would develop it. The survey found land “fit for either grazing or culture” around Bumbaalaa, and near to the present day Tallong Railway Station, the party noticed what they regarded as “very good land” and “very hard granite rocks.”

But it wasn't until July 1865 that the first school was established. It was badly needed as by then there were about 75 railway workers and their families.

Subsequently, there were a series of provisional schools over the years, but it wasn't until 1914 that the first Tallong Public School was built on two acres of land bought for £35. So, there are big plans for celebrations in early October to mark 100 years of schooling in Tallong on the current site.

School Principal Sue Matthews is keen to contact people who have a past connection with the school or who know people with a past connection or who have any local knowledge or memorabilia. All contributions, particularly photographs, will be warmly welcomed.

Sue's aim is to create a grapevine effect by gathering as many past and present people back to Tallong to help celebrate this event. Contact the school if you can help.

The current school is booming. In the last few years, the number of pupils has doubled to more than 50 and Sue Matthews says she is “just on the number” required for three classes. However, a final decision on whether she is able to recruit a third teacher won't be made until school returns at the end of January.

Christmas celebrations...

The Tallong Community Christmas party was a great success with more than 70 parents, grandparents, and children enjoying the fun at the Tallong Memorial Hall. As usual, Santa arrived on a fire truck from the Tallong Rural Fire Service and distributed presents to all the children.

A gold coin donation raised money for the Red Cross.

Sign approved...

The Goulburn Mulwaree Council has formally approved the Tallong Community Notice Board on Railway Parade which has been providing useful information about activities in the Community at large, but in particular the Public School, the Rural Fire Service, and social events in the village, for more than a year.

There are some conditions which include the prohibition of reflective paint or materials which might impede driver and pedestrian safety. The Focus Group must also apply to the GMC for a Building Certificate which will prevent the Council making any order for seven years requiring repairs or to alter or demolish the sign. And there has to be a public liability insurance policy to cover any possible claim.