

Tallong Twitterings

Tallong on the move...

The Tallong Community Focus Group is embarking on an ambitious development plan for the village that will highlight the apple-growing heritage of the district. For example, it is proposed that the bush area behind the Rural Fire Service shed will be cleared and replaced with tree planting, walk ways and a car park space. Permission has been sought from the Goulburn Mulwaree Council.

Another aim is to make an artistic heritage area along Caoura Road that will focus on the apple and pear orchards of Tallong and will include the Jim Watling Walk (in acknowledgement of the late local orchardist). The Big Apple would be re-erected on a suitable base and cleaned up.

Details of the plans will be a feature display of the Focus Group stall at the Apple Day Festival next month (Sunday, 3rd May) when visitors will be invited to comment.

While on the topic of changes, a very welcome grant of \$2000 from the Southern Phone company is being used to restore the historic memorial trees at the entrance to Memorial Drive. The GMC has now trimmed the trees. The council has agreed to install a kerb around the trees to keep mulch back from the road.

The Focus Group is seeking a grant from the Department of Veteran Affairs under its Saluting Their Service commemorations program that are designed to support projects that highlight the sacrifice of Australia's servicemen and women. Specifically, we want to clean up and improve the War Memorial area.

Saluting Their Service...

Tallong will celebrate this year's ANZAC centenary at 10am on Saturday 25th April with a program that will remember in particular all the young men of Tallong who appear on our First World War honour roll. (see photo... caption: Tallong's honour roll)

David Leese, a past president of the Focus Group, will invite the audience to listen to the voices of 1915, the acting Principal of the Tallong Public School Leisha Matthews will talk about the ANZAC legend, David Woods, the inaugural president of the Focus Group, will speak of his own family's experiences with the ANZACS at Gallipoli, and John Lombard will speak about his search on the Western Front for the final resting places of four young Tallong men who died there. A book about his journey, *Tales of Tallong*, will be available for \$10. Profits go to the Focus Group.

Bumper Crop...

More than 650-kgs of apples will be for sale at next month's Apple Day Festival. They will include the delicious Granny Smith apple, which was discovered 147 years ago from a chance seedling propagated by Maria Ann Smith in Eastwood, NSW, Royal Gala red apples, and the very popular Pink Ladies.

This year is the tenth anniversary Festival held to commemorate Tallong's apple heritage.

It is fitting that also this year is the 50th anniversary of the terrible Chatsbury bush fires of 1965 that destroyed 250,000 hectares, tens of thousands of animals, and more than 60 houses. It was a disaster that decimated the apple and pear orchards of the region.