

## Tallong Twitterings

### **Apples away...**

Congratulations to everybody who took part in yesterday's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary Apple Day Festival. It's always good to see such community spirit in action.

The beneficiaries are local community groups such as the Tallong Rural Fire Service, the Tallong Public School, St Stephen's Church and the Memorial Hall Trust who will all share in the takings. The Focus Group would like to send a special word of thanks to our sponsors, particularly Boral who agreed over three years to 'build something great' with our Apple Festival.

As usual, one of the stars of the Apple Festival was Tony Rodwell and his Mountain Dew Band. They will be on show again later in the year when they'll be playing at Tallong's Bush Dance that celebrates Christmas in July! So put Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July in the diary.

Ticket prices will be the same as last year, \$10 for adults, \$4 for children under 12 or \$30 for a family. It should be a great night.

### **ANZAC memories...**

About 200 local residents turned out for Tallong's commemoration of the ANZAC centenary at Memorial Park. The weather was perfect and the speeches well received. Thanks to Fran and Richard Bosly Craft for leading the singing.

One of the proudest participants was 91-year-old Tallong resident Valerie Crankshaw (see pic), who served during World War Two as a member of the NZ Women's Auxiliary Air Force. But Val was especially proud of her late husband Ken, also a Kiwi, who won a Distinguished Flying Cross and a Distinguished Flying Medal.

Ken flew a massive number of 79 bombing operations and shot down more than eight enemy planes as a rear gunner in Lancaster bombers for the famous UK Bomber Command, one of the most perilous jobs. It was estimated that one in three members of the Air Crews of Bomber Command did not make it past 30 missions.

He won his DFC when one night in August 1943, during a sortie against Berlin, his plane came under attack from a Junkers 88. According to his DFC notification: "Coolly and skilfully, Pilot Officer Crankshaw engaged the shooter and his accurate shooting caused the enemy aircraft to dive away, apparently on fire. This officer displayed courage and confidence, setting an excellent example."

While serving with 75 Squadron, Ken became known as 'Ring the Bell Crankshaw' because during a billet in an English stately home he took a fancy to a bell used to summon servants from 'below stairs.' So, he 'borrowed' the bell and carried it with him on operations.

Legend has it that when the bomb doors were opened over the target, Ken would ring the bell with the sound booming out over the transmitter. It was a trick to convince the Germans that a new secret weapon had arrived!

The bell now adorns Val's front door at her home in Tallong!

### **Angus is dropping in...**

Angus Taylor, the Federal member for Hume, is visiting tomorrow. He will be available at the Tallong Memorial Hall from 2pm to 3.30pm and in Marulan CWA rooms from 4pm to 5.30pm.