

Tallong Twitterings January 2017

Christmas Time then and now:

It's not often remembered these days that Tallong used to have two churches:

One, St Stephen's Anglican Church, still stands in the bush, off the Highland Way at the entrance to the village. St Stephen's was opened on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> December 1892 and the Goulburn papers at the time described it as 'a very neat weatherboard structure built on brick piles and lined with pine'. The opening service taken by Rev. A.C. Moseley from All Saints Church at Marulan was described as 'well attended' although the weather was bad. A 'sumptuous' tea was held afterwards for about 100 people followed by a public meeting to appoint trustees and a church committee. The first Holy Communion service was conducted the following day.

The completion of the Church project was largely due to a number of prominent Sydney churchmen who had country properties in the Barbers Creek (Tallong) area. One was Mr E.W. Molesworth MLA, who donated the land on which the church was built. He was the member for Newtown and later Erskineville between 1889-1901 as well as being closely involved with St Stephen's Church, Newtown and a member of the Anglican Synod. Another was Mr J. Kent, who owned one of the earliest commercial orchards. He was a Sydney accountant and financial advisor, and he was also involved in the Sydney YMCA, the Church Missionary Association and was a member of the Anglican Synod.



### **St Stephens Church**

The second church in Tallong, no longer standing and largely forgotten, was the Methodist Church in Tamar St. In 1916, £20 was collected to buy two blocks of land and a little later a loan of £200 was arranged to build a church. The Church and Sunday School were opened with a tea meeting and concert on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1917, to which the whole district contributed, followed by the first service

the next day when it was reported that ‘the Church though seemingly large for so small a village was filled to overflowing’.

The building was reputed to have wonderful acoustics due to the metal lined ceiling and walls. The Morris, McAulay and Rumsey families were Church stalwarts but over the years the congregations dwindled as people died and families moved away. By 1965, when the building was totally destroyed during the Chatsbury bushfire, the congregation had fallen to one family with services being held only once a month so it was decided not to rebuild and today there is no trace of it left.



### **The Methodist Church**

January represents for many Tallong residents a quiet holiday period after the village Christmas celebrations. St Stephen’s Church, one of two remaining public buildings this year hosted the annual Christmas Carol Service with a light show and supper. This event is much enjoyed and well attended.

This year’s Village Christmas Party was held in the Memorial Hall, our other heritage building, hosted by the RFSB and TCFG, attended by Tallong families who enjoyed the Christmas fare and were entertained by Tony Rodwell’s Mountain Dew Band. The highlight was the arrival of Mr and Mrs Santa Clause on the Tallong Brigade’s Fire Truck to the accompaniment of the bush band. Many families took the opportunity to create their own family Christmas Santa photos and the finale was everyone joining in the Hokey Pokey.