

Tallong Twitterings



Tallong's usual Anzac Day Service was not held due to corona virus restrictions but families congregated at their property entrances with lighted candles to listen to the Dawn Service from the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.



During the day the Australian flag flew at half-mast over the Tallong War Memorial and many members of the Tallong community took the opportunity to pause and reflect while observing the COVID-19 distancing protocols. Wreaths were laid by representatives of the Tallong Community Focus Group, the Tallong RFS, the Tallong Memorial Hall Trust and St Stephens Church.

Also postponed was the Tallong Community Resilience Day that was to have followed the Anzac Service. This was to have included a celebration of the centenary of the opening of Tallong War Memorial Hall on 14 May 1920.

At the end of WW1, the “shape” of Tallong was very much the “shape” of the village we know today, even though many of the actual buildings have changed. The railway station, railway dam, the bridge over Old Wingello Rd and the viaduct over Barber’s Creek at Highland Way were all in place. The schoolhouse in Bumballa St and the schoolmaster’s cottage were both built in 1914. There was even a store where the store is today, a large corrugated iron building that was the Davenport Bros Store.

The road now known as Memorial Drive was then the railway end of Caoura Rd and the land on the left-hand side going up the hill, was a residential subdivision by a Goulburn solicitor, Percival J. Meyers. One noticeable feature present was the water reservoir now known as “The Pot” brought into service in 1916. Across the road from the reservoir, then as now, was a village hall.

Tallong has had two halls, both on the same site which was given to the community by Albert and Harry Davenport, with title being transferred in 1916. The first hall was built in 1896 and officially called the “Federal Hall”. This Hall hosted all the farewells to men going to serve in WW1 and many of their welcomes home.

After 20 years of service, the timber building was deteriorating and at the end of WW1 it was decided to build a new hall both as a memorial to the soldiers of the district and a reminder of the patriotic work of those left behind. On 11 September 1919 a building committee was elected, and the foundation stone was laid on 13 December 1919 by the oldest resident, Mr Jabez James Hoare snr. When the hall was opened on 14 May 1920 by the then Premier of NSW and local member Sir George Fuller MLA, newspaper articles declared it “Tallong’s Day of Days”.

The weather was described as “boisterous” (don’t we know Tallong’s winds!) but people came from near and far. The official opening was at 3pm with speeches and presentations. Tea was provided at 5pm (admission 2s) but the night was when the revelries really began. More guests and the Light Horse Band arrived by train from Goulburn and made full use of a “floor unequalled out of Sydney” and as the newspapers put it: “Supper, more dances and more music filled in the night until it forgot to be night and was nearly morning.”