

# Tallong Twitterings

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## TCFG NEWS:

The Tallong Community Resilience Day planned for Saturday 14 November has had to be postponed. The new date is Sunday 6 December. Full details of the event including registration and ticket collection information will be provided in the community newsletter which will be out shortly.

The Tallong community is reminded that membership fees for the Tallong Community Focus Group are now due. Please fill out the form and pay \$2.50 per person at the Midge.

The 2020 AGM of the Tallong Community Focus Group has been deferred until 2021 and the current committee will continue in their positions until then.

## FROM GHOULIES AND GHOSTIES AND LONG LEGGEDY BEASTIES AND THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT...

Tallong may not have too many of these but the arrival of Halloween reminds us that we did once upon a time have our very own bunyip.

This month's photo though attributed sometimes to the Shoalhaven River is quite obviously of a section of Barber's Creek just downstream of the railway dam with the original sports area behind and the back fence of the station master's or pump house attendant's cottage on the left. On 24 August 1905, the Goulburn Evening Penny Post printed a letter from Arthur Rumsey, then the railway pump house operator who asked:

"Sir, - Will some of your readers give me some information re the 'Australian bunyip.' We have in the Barber's Creek dam something either a bird or beast with a body as big as a goose, a head as big as a diver's body (or, more correctly, a retriever's head); it dives like a porpoise, is black and seems to have hair on its body and a long neck like a crane. It has always been seen before at dawn or dusk but on Tuesday whilst walking along with a gentleman from Sydney at noon we both distinctly saw it; it was also seen by another gentleman about the same time. I shall be glad of any information on the subject."

Considerable (slightly acrimonious) correspondence ensued including a Bungonia writer who suggested, perhaps tongue in cheek, that it might be a manifestation of Fisher's ghost of Campbelltown fame. Then interest appeared to die out until the late 1920s when another bunyip was spotted in the Shoalhaven Gorge that was said to be so ferocious that fish (most unusually for that time of year!) were leaping out of the water onto land to get away from the beast!!

