

NOVEMBER 2020

What a year!

The TCFG committee hope our community members and their loved ones are well and looking forward to somewhat of a normal Christmas and a new year without Fires, Floods and of course the very serious pandemic that changed our world in 2020. While we seem to be doing ok here in Tallong in regards to Covid, we would like to remind all that it is in our best interest to maintain Covid safe practices and to not become complacent.

Its been tough for many of our local families and businesses, we hope that everyone continues to offer support if your able to for those in need and continue to support LOCAL BUSINESSES! If everyone can use local businesses, not only are you helping a local family but you are keeping our local economy alive!

NOTE: The TCFG AGM will be held at the end of financial year 2021 [due to Covid restrictions] this will also bring the financials in line and make account keeping easier for the future. Reports for 2019-20 will be sent to financial members shortly.

During the past few months the TCFG have been working hard on many things for our community-

**Our Community Day plans were postponed [NEW DATE 6TH December]*

*Preparations for this wonderful day are happening! This is a ticketed event [due to Covid] **BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL** see attached information*

**The nature reserve/Jim Watling Walkway has been having a make over*

**We have installed SCULPTURES*

**Changed entrance to walkway [now entrance under Big Apple]*

**Installed Walkway Signage*

**Installed Way finder sign [corner Caoura Rd/Highland Way]*

Thankyou to Margaret and Janet for continuing with the Tallong Twitterings, keeping us informed of local happenings

Things that will happen over the coming weeks-

**New garden around Way Finder sign*

**Installation of The Caoura Barn Replica Sculpture and History Signage*

**Tallong Memorial Hall to have internal painting upgrade- Happy Birthday 100 Years!*

**The War Memorial Honour Boards have been repaired and restored*

**A trophy cabinet will be installed in the hall*

**2 new Honour Boards to acknowledge our wonderful Hall Trust Members to be installed [Many thanks to Gunlake Quarry for this generous donation]*

**We are having a Lectern made from timber that was from the recent fires, this gift is to commemorate The Tallong Memorial Hall Centenary*

** Janet and Dugald Black have been working on a Tallong Memorial Hall History Booklet and also updating the History Trail and Village Booklets-*

Thankyou to Janet, Dugald and Margaret for their dedication to our history and keeping accurate records-this is very time consuming and an enormous task

Plans for the future-

We are in the process of securing another round of funding from the Bushfire Resilience and Economic Recovery program, which is exciting for Tallong!

We have submitted a proposal which includes-

**A full toilet upgrade for Tallong Park and Hall*

**A multi-purpose court and mini skate park in Tallong Memorial Park*

**Disabled access ramp for Tallong Hall*

**Tallong Hall kitchen upgrade [s/steel benches and dishwasher]*

Due to Covid many of our local volunteer groups activities have been on hold, as things start to get back to some kind of normal we encourage you to re connect with the local volunteer groups which offer support, friendship, fun and activities.

Please note: The Tallong Memorial Hall still has limit restrictions, please contact Hall Trust Chairperson Kerry Lawrence 0429 980 545 for further information.

Stay safe and on behalf of the TCFG committee we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a wonderful 2021



Invitation to the Tallong Bushfire Resilience and Economic Recovery Celebration



Sunday 6th December, 2020

You are invited to attend.

Time: 11am -4.30pm

Morning Tea & Lunch provided

Entertainment, Children's activities

Place: Tallong Memorial Park

*Please RSVP to The Midge or
Chrissy at The Shed Marulan*

All enquiries 0418648610

*We hope you can join us for this
special community celebration*

*Due to restrictions we can only accept 400
guests in total, this is a ticketed event*

No ticket No entry

The Tallong Community Focus Group wish to invite you to attend the *Tallong Community Commemoration and Resilience Celebration Day* on Sunday 6th December, 2020 11.00am-4.30pm at Tallong Memorial Park

The day will commence with an official Welcome at 11.00am at Tallong Memorial Park. The Centenary Celebration for The Tallong Memorial Hall will commence at approximately 11.15pm. This will include special guests attending-past and present Trust Board members and their families, Mayor Bob Kirk and representatives from Goulburn Mulwaree Council. To commemorate this special occasion we will unveil the Tallong Memorial Hall Trust Honour Boards, distribute a Memorial Hall Centenary Commemorative Booklet and cut The Memorial Hall 100 years Birthday Cake. Following the ceremony, we invite all Tallong Community Members to re-create the opening with a photo of the *community and dignitaries* at the front of the hall. Morning Tea will follow this ceremony.

At approximately 12.30pm the official ceremony to acknowledge the enormous efforts and contributions of our Rural Fire Service men and women throughout the recent fires in Tallong and surrounds will commence. To commemorate this, we officially open our Sculpture Garden showcasing our local Flora and Fauna, and the special addition of a Fireman Sculpture and plaque to acknowledge the enormous efforts from our Tallong RFS Brigade. A representative of each local brigade who supported Tallong will be presented with an appreciation plaque from the Tallong community to show our sincerest gratitude for their enormous contributions. The Tallong brigade will present long service medals to local members. We encourage you to join us and show your appreciation to these wonderful community volunteers and to enjoy this wonderful addition to "The Jim Watling Walkway" and Nature Reserve. As numbers to attend is limited, a book will be at The Midge for those who cannot attend to personally write your appreciation letters in and this will be presented to Tallong RFS on the day.

Following the ceremony, We will then invite all special guests to please be seated inside the marquees for the luncheon with the community who will enjoy a delicious picnic style luncheon in the park, whilst enjoying the entertainment.

At the conclusion of the luncheon we invite everyone to view our new sculpture's in the nature reserve as you wander along the Jim Watling Walkway, enjoy the entertainment, children's activities and each other's company at your leisure.

The Tallong Community Focus Group would like to acknowledge the State funding 'Bushfire Community Resilience and Economic Recovery' and support from Goulburn Mulwaree Council which made this wonderful community gathering possible. Please RSVP by 29th November at The Midge Tallong or The Shed Marulan

If you require further information please contact Chrissy on 0418648610

Program for the Community Celebrations

DUE TO RESTRICTIONS YOU MUST REGISTER AND PRESENT YOUR TICKETS ON ARRIVAL- your tickets include meal and drink vouchers

*******A COVID SAFE PLAN WILL BE IN PLACE*******

11.00am- Official Welcome

- Tallong Memorial Hall Centenary Ceremony, Community Re-Creation photograph and Morning Tea supplied by The Midge and Birthday cake supplied by The Marulan Café.

Tea & Coffee can be purchased from Magnificup [optional] TBC

Cold refreshments will be available from 'The Apple Thief' [optional] TBC

Entertainment in the park includes: Matilda's Farmyard, Jumping Castles, Petrol Jeeps and face painting [all free] We also welcome back "The Mountain Dew Band" which will be performing in the park, with special guest "Hunter" a local 5 year old star!

[note: all entertainment and activities will commence after the official ceremony]

12.30pm - Recognition to the Rural Fire Service Ceremony

- Opening of The Sculpture Garden

1.30pm - Luncheon supplied by The Midge- Tallong

Marulan Bakery, Drinks, ice-creams provided by IGA Marulan

*BYO Picnic blanket, some tables/chairs available

4.30pm - Celebrations conclude

We hope you come along and enjoy this wonderful community celebration in Tallong!

Thankyou to Janet & Dugald Black for your enormous efforts researching and compiling the Hall Booklet, Alan Weston for his contributions, Gunlake Quarries for your generous donation towards the Honour Boards, Boral for printing the Commemorative booklets, Margaret Botticchio for your contributions with the sculpture signage, Hoon Art for the design, make and installation of the sculptures, M&M Earthworks for planting and repair work on the walkway & nature reserve. All the local businesses who are contributing to the day, and the volunteers who helped make it possible, THANKYOU!

"Live, Love and Explore Tallong"

Tallong Twitterings



Recovery is the message behind the sculptures recently placed in the Nature Reserve Walkway in Tallong's Memorial Park. They depict representations of local wildlife; Kangaroo, Wombat, Echidna, Platypus, Lyrebird, Koala, Flying and Hanging Bat species as well as endangered species like the Glossy Black Cockatoo and the Midge Orchid and have been created by local custom sculptor Hoonart. Plantings of *Allocasuarina littoralis*, the main diet of the Glossy Black Cockatoo and the large scale sculpture of the Midge Orchid draw attention to the recovery of local habitats of endangered and other species after the drought and subsequent bushfires that destroyed bushland earlier this year. The local community draws significance from the tiny orchid (botanical name *Corunastylis plumosum* or formally *Genoplesium plumosum*) which only flowers in the Tallong district for several days in March and only after heavy rain, giving it the common name Tallong Midge Orchid. Tallong's shop /café called the Midge is a central meeting place for locals and tourists and like its namesake draws on this icon as a point of village identity.

An additional sculpture of a lifesize fireman is dedicated to all the RFS members who defended Tallong from the encroaching fires that threatened Tallong on two fronts branching off from the Morton National Park's Currowan fire when it crossed over the Shoalhaven Gorge. The Sculptures were funded by a NSW bushfire recovery grant given to Goulburn Mulwaree Council. By allocating these funds to Tallong it was intended to create a safe, peaceful place for community recovery as well as the development of an event in the park that gave local businesses like the Midge a chance to cater for it and thus stimulate local business recovery.

Tallong Public School principal, Ms Emily Morrow is delighted with the installation of the sculptures in the Nature Reserve. She said that as well as being nearby it is an interesting place for students to explore. The Nature Reserve is a great teaching tool for the students to learn about local species and their own environment. Awareness of environmental issues is a key part of the school curriculum and the significance of the Midge Orchid locally is a worthy research project. The community has participated in various environmental programs like the Glossies in the Mist campaign which saw community members anticipating future food sources for the Glossy Blacks by planting large numbers of casuarina trees. Ms Morrow is waiting for current Covid restrictions to be lifted for the whole school to be able to visit the Nature Reserve.

Throughout the history of Tallong Public School there has been an awareness of the local environment, preserving bushland and planting of trees at the annual Arbor Day ceremonies. At present this tree planting day is held in July but in 1896 Arbor Day was held in August. At that time the school sited on Hope Street and called Barbers Creek Public School is recorded in the Goulburn Evening Penny Post on the 13th August of that year ceremoniously planted fifty trees obtained from the Sydney Botanical Gardens and a local resident. Today some of the trees can be seen on the site, most notable the Camphor Laurel which students recalled in poems and compositions on display at the schools centenary exhibition. The ceremony started with each student, principal Miss Gwynne, parents, friends and visitors planting the trees then a picnic meal was served "a splendid repast provided by parents and friends" followed by a student concert. At the conclusion of the Day Miss Gwynne was cheered and reciprocated by thanking "those friends who assisted in making Arbor Day such a glorious success". The article's author claimed that "if all the trees grow Barbers Creek Public School grounds will be one of the beauty spots on the southern railway line".





VALE ALETA CURRY.

It was with great shock and sadness that Tallong residents learned of the death of Aleta Curry in Goulburn Hospital, on Wednesday morning 26 August 2020.

Aleta was the third President of the Tallong Community Focus Group after serving as Vice President while David Leese was in charge. She became President in October 2008, remaining in that position for 2 years. The committee she led was responsible for overseeing the development of a more proactive stance with regard to Goulburn Mulwaree Council than during preceding years, which has been built on subsequently. The TCFG was heavily involved in the development of the Tallong Village Plan of 2010, organising community involvement through a questionnaire and workshop meetings.

During this time also, the village regained control of the old picnic ground and playing field on Barbers Creek Rd. and by the middle of 2009 the Tallong Picnic and Recreation Reserve Trust had been gazetted. Aleta was a member of the Reserve Trust until 2019. The Paint the Pot project was completed in 2009 and the completed work was officially opened on Apple Day, 2009. As President of the TCFG, Aleta was also head of the organising committee for Apple Day for two years as well as being an ex-officio (non-voting) member of the Tallong Memorial Hall Trust.

With her history degree and interest in oral history, Aleta was involved in the writing of the book "Tallong: a Heritage". She covered the twentieth century history of the village as well as formatting the final document.

Aleta was a forceful and dynamic woman who carried herself with grace and dignity. She had definite opinions but believed strongly that, as she wrote in her President's Report of 2010: "Cooperation needs to remain a watchword; when community groups become more concerned about individual areas of control rather than the district as a whole, people may be able to satisfy their egos with a sense of power and control in the short term, but eventually the region will decay due to a lack of real commitment and support." She also had a wicked sense of humour and will be greatly missed by everyone who came in contact with her.



TALLONG RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

2020/2021 SEASON NEWSLETTER

FROM THE BRIGADE:

PREPARE FOR THE COMING FIRE SEASON

Now is the time to prepare your properties and community for the coming fire season. As with every year, we urge the Tallong Community to prepare early and not wait until it's too late, this means having an effective bushfire survival plan in place. With a number of apps and online tools making this easier than ever and also adhering to the following list of essentials.

It is vital we all understand important fire safety messages, and all play our part in keeping Tallong safe this season.

As with every year, we urge the community to prepare early and not wait until it's too late and this means having an effective bushfire survival plan in place. With several apps and online tools making this easier and quicker than ever, no-one has an excuse not to be prepared. The RFS

recommends the following approach to preparing yourself and property:

1. PREPARE -This includes having an up-to-date bushfire survival plan for you and your property.
2. ACT -Take heed of fire danger ratings and total fire bans and their implications. Keep yourself informed.
3. SURVIVE -Ensure you know whether you intend to leave early or stay and defend your property.

CAPTAINS NOTES

The Tallong RFS AGM was held on the 28th of July and we would like to thank the outgoing committee we wish you well for your future endeavours.

We are pleased to advise that all positions were filled and the Tallong team is as follows.

Captain - Jack Watling

Snr Deputy Captain - Troy Brown

Deputy Captain 1 - John Luke

Deputy Captain 2 - Jeremy Porter

Permit Issuing officers x 2 - Jack Watling and Troy Brown

First Aid officers x 2 - Janice Harmond and Trish Jensen

President - Alan Weston

Vice President - Lorraine Herring

Secretary - Mark Derwent

Treasurer - Cheryl Weston

Training Officer x 2 Jack Watling and Troy Brown

Maintenance Officer - Peter Harmond

YOUR BRIGADE MANAGEMENT TEAM

OPERATIONS:

BRIGADE CAPT – J Watling

SNR DEP CAPT – T Brown

DEP CAPT– J Luke

DEP CAPT J Porter

ADMINISTRATION:

PRESIDENT – A Weston

VICE PRESIDENT L Herring

TREASURER – C Weston

SECRETARY – M Derwent

Catering Officer - Kerry
Lawrence

Community Engagement
Officers x 2 - Kerry Lawrence
and Janice Harmond

Media Officer - Kerry
Lawrence

Congratulations to all for
accepting these roles.

The 2019-2020 fire season was a
precedent time that showed us
all the magnitude of how deadly
these fires can be.

As a small country brigade
Tallong RFS had a big job ahead
of them, the previous Captains
tackled it head on and got the
job done, Great job Micheal &
Jen thank you.

I would also like to thank the
community for the donations
and support you showed to us in
many ways

**THANK YOU TALLONG
COMMUNITY**

A very big thank you to all the
new members that have joined
the brigade in the last year, the

number of members have
doubled, most of the new
members Have now completed
the basic firefighting training and
some have completed the more
advanced training through the
RFS.

We are always looking for new
members.

Again we would like to thank the
community for their continued
support.

With the rain we have had
coming into fire season don't be
complacent as with rain brings
growth which means fuel on the
ground, prepare while you can
information on burning
regulations will be provided in
this newsletter. A huge thank you
to the brigade and the
community.

Have you
brought your
raffle tickets yet?
Great prizes to
win!!!

Tickets can be
bought from The
Shed Marulan
also The Midge.

GET READY
WEEKEND was
very quiet with
COVID 19 if you
didn't make it
come down
and talk to us
about your fire
plan at the fire
shed on a
Tuesday night.

BURNING OFF DURING FIRE SEASON
No Permit = No Burning!

Bush Fire Danger Period and Fire Permits

A Fire Permit is required for burning activities during the Bush Fire Danger Period. Fire Permits help ensure fire is used safely and minimize the danger to you, your property and the community.

The key things to remember

- You need a fire permit if it's the Bush Fire Danger Period.
- Just because it's the Bush Fire Danger Period doesn't mean you can't use fire - but there are restrictions to ensure fire is used safely.
- Getting a permit is free and easy. Contact your local [Fire Control Centre](#).
- There are heavy penalties if you don't follow restrictions or rules.

Please note that other restrictions, approvals and/or permits may apply to council areas where the Bush Fire Danger Period has not been declared. For example, backyard burning is not permitted in many suburban

areas due to Environmental Regulations and Council or Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) permission is required.

Check these guides for more information on permits and reducing hazards on your property:

- [Before You Light That Fire](#) - information on permits and steps you need to take before using fire on your property
- [Can I or Can't I](#) - a simple guide to restrictions such as during Total Fire Bans

What is a Fire Permit?

Fire Permits help ensure fire is used safely during the Bush Fire Danger Period. A permit imposes conditions on the way a fire is lit and maintained, and can only be issued by authorised Permit Issuing Officers.

The permit system ensures agencies like the NSW RFS know when and where landholders intend to burn, to ensure adequate and appropriate measures are in place, and so that fires remain under control.

To carry out a Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Burn, you may need:

- a Fire Permit and/or

- an Environmental Approval such as a Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Certificate. You must gain this before applying for a Fire Permit.

The Permit Issuing Officer may add any conditions deemed as necessary but all permits have standard conditions that, such as:

- the permit is to be carried by the permit holder, on site, at the time the fire is lit
- the permit is to remain on site with those present until extinguished, if applicable
- the fire must be supervised at all times unless the permit says otherwise
- notifications are given to the NSW RFS, and adjoining neighbours at least 24 hours (unless specified otherwise) prior to the fire being lit and
- the permit may be varied, cancelled or suspended, depending on weather conditions.

When are permits required?

The statutory Bush Fire Danger Period runs from 1 October to 31 March; however it may vary due to local conditions. If you are planning to light a fire in the

open during this time, you will need a Fire Permit.

You can find out if permits are required in your area below.

Also depending on the type of fire, a permit may be required all year round. For example, a Fire Permit is required at all times if a fire is likely to be dangerous to a building.

When are permits not required?

Fire Permits are not required for fires that are lit for the purpose of land clearance or the creation of a fire break during the Non-Bush Fire Danger Period.

Additionally, Fire Permits are not required for fires for the purpose of cooking food, provided that:

- the fire is in a permanently constructed fireplace;
- at a site surrounded by ground that is cleared of all combustible materials for a distance of at least two meters all around;
- the fire is completely extinguished before leaving.

What else do I need to do?

Before lighting the fire ensure that:

- it can be contained and controlled within the specified area
- it does not contain toxic materials, such as rubber tyres, plastics, paint etc; and
- it must not cause an air pollution problem by producing excessive amounts of smoke.

If you have a permit, it is your responsibility to:

- check whether a Total Fire Ban in force on our [Fire Danger Ratings and Total Fire Ban page](#). If there is, your permit is automatically suspended.
- check whether a No Burn day has been declared on the [EPA website](#)
- check the expected weather conditions
- notify and check with your local NSW RFS Fire Control Centre or Fire and Rescue NSW station prior to lighting.
- follow any conditions restrictions listed in your permit.

Applying for a permit

If in doubt about whether you require a Fire Permit, or to apply for one, contact your local NSW RFS Fire Control Centre or Fire and Rescue NSW station.

Fines and penalties

Substantial fines and prison terms of up to 12 months may apply to persons found to be in breach of the Rural Fires Act 1997 and its Regulations.

Civil lawsuits can also be brought against persons responsible for fire, by those seeking compensation, for losses sustained.

More information

Read our guide [Before You Light That Fire](#) for more information about Fire Permits.

You can also check our [Can I or Can't I](#) fact sheets to find out what restrictions are in place in your area.

For more information about fines and penalties, or assistance regarding whether you need a Fire Permit or not, contact your local NSW RFS Fire Control Centre.

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au
<https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fires-near-me>
<https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/>

ASSESSING YOUR FIRE RISK How Well Prepared Should You Be?

Preparing your property before or early in the fire season increases its resilience in the face of a fire event this season.

Assessing your property's risk is a good way to consider what things you should prioritise whilst preparing your home or business. Some things to look for while assessing your property include:

- Are you close to bushland with high fuel loads?
- Do you live in a designated bushfire

prone area (such as much of Tallong)?

- Are you situated on a slope or ridgeline? – Fire runs quicker uphill.
- Do you have tracts of vegetation on or running to your property?
- Do you have combustible materials near structures such as bushes/shrubs, woodpiles, building materials, waste piles or leaf litter in gutters?
- Do you have limited or hazardous access to your property – can a fire truck reach you with ease?

- Do you have enough water for firefighting or are distant from firefighting services?

If you answered yes to some of these, then you need to prepare your property NOW! The RFS website (www.rfs.nsw.gov.au) and the Tallong RFB have fact sheets, checklists and other publications available, so jump online or drop into the station and be as prepared as you can be!

VOLUNTEERING AND TRAINING WITH THE RFS New Members and Enquiries are Always Welcome

The brigade is always welcoming of any new members or questions about volunteering that you may have.

Joining the brigade is easy and opens up many opportunities, such as learning new skills, meeting new people, access to the extensive RFS training programs and the chance to assist your community.

This year, the brigade is actively encouraging any interested community members to take the step of coming to a brigade meeting and joining us in the RFS. We all have valuable www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

experience and skills to share, so why not join us and put back into your community?

We especially would like to invite younger members of our community to come along and be part of our activities. Remember, you can get nationally recognised training not just in firefighting skills, but also:

- First Aid;
- Chainsaw Operation;
- Communications; and
- Leadership

just to name a few.

Being in the RFS also lets you meet new people and establish great friendships. You can even

invite your friends and join and train together!

Also, being in the RFS isn't all about fighting fires. So, even if you think you're not up to being on the fire ground, we also need members for essential catering, communications and administration roles to assist our crews.

If you are interested in joining, just drop by the fire shed after 7.30pm on any Tuesday night and we will be happy to help you out!

TALLONG RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

ABN 69 886 097 907

Please Print Clearly and send to:-

The Treasurer
Rural Fire Station
Memorial Drive
TALLONG NSW 2579

I/We (Name/s).....
of (Postal Address).....
with property located at (Please use your rural address number).....

Enclosed is cheque/money order/cash for \$30 as a permanent resident or \$50 as a non-resident or other \$.....being our donation to the brigade for the current season.

Signed.....Date.....Phone No.....
email addressMobile.....

The Tallong Rural Fire Brigade is an endorsed Deductible Gift Recipient and all donations of \$2 or above are income tax deductible. If you require a receipt please include a stamped self addressed envelope.

YOUR BRIGADE THANKS YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

HELP US TO HELP YOU

Could we take a little of your time to help us help you by answering the following questions and returning it to the brigade.

- >What is the approximate size of your property.....Acres or Hectares.....
- >What water storage do you have.....Dams.....Bores.....Tanks.....etc
- >Are your water storage sites accessible for fire fighting units to fill from.....Yes/No
- >How many structures are on your property (Houses, Sheds, Barns etc.....
- >In an emergency do you have access to onsite plant or equipment such as tractors, backhoes etc. if so please list
- >Do you have any dangerous goods stored on your property.....Yes/No
If yes please describe type and the quantity stored and location.....
- >What livestock do you run.....horses.....cattle.....sheep.....others
approximately how many
head.....
- >Is your property occupied on a permanent or casual basis.....
- >Is the front access gate to your property locked.....Yes/No
- >Do you have a fire lock on that gate.....Yes/No
(a fire lock is a padlock that is uniquely keyed for rural fire service use only and can be interlocked with your own padlocks. This enables speedy access to your property in the case of an emergency and precludes damaging gates and fences) If you are interested in having a fire lock fitted please contact the brigade (costs apply)