TALLONG



ANZAC DAY



After ANZAC Day 2020, which could only be marked with candlelight vigils at the end of driveways, ANZAC Day 2021 saw a welcome return to normality.

A crowd of over 100 residents gathered at Tallong War Memorial to honour servicemen and women both past and present, particularly those from Tallong and the surrounding district. As Master of Ceremonies, Geoff Kettle welcomed all comers and addresses were given by Deputy Mayor of Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Peter Walker and the Principal of Tallong Public School, Emily Morrow. Angus S. and Saxon S., two members of Tallong Public School's Student Representative Council, then read verses from "We Are All Australians Now" by A.B. (Banjo) Paterson, a poem originally written as an open letter to the troops in 1915.

Representatives of local organisations were invited to lay their wreaths and, following. Tallong tradition, any community member who wished to place a poppy on the War Memorial, in remembrance, was encouraged to do so.



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FAREWELL TO ALAN AND CHERYL WESTON

At the morning tea, which followed the ANZAC service, the Tallong community took the opportunity to bid a special farewell to Alan and Cheryl Weston, who have moved to Moss Vale. Both are well known and active community members.

Alan, in fact, lived in Tallong as a young boy in a house in Bumballa St, which subsequently burned in the 1965 Chatsbury bushfire. He and his siblings attended Tallong Public School for several years, and it was there that Alan developed his artistic abilities. Alan and Cheryl returned to Tallong in 2003, buying a property in the Tallong Park Estate. Both were active members of the St Stephens Anglican Church congregation, with Alan becoming Rector's Warden and Church Leader. Alan was also involved in the Explorers Club at Tallong Public School, a popular after school activity for several years, offering afternoon tea, games and religious education under the auspices of the Anglican Parish of Sutton Forest. In recent years Alan has been a member of the Tallong Picnic and Recreation Reserve Trust and was also responsible for the restoration of the Big Apple and all the historical signage in Tallong Memorial Park.

Alan and Cheryl have both been long term members of the Tallong RFS, Alan for 13 years serving as truck driver and firefighter and in more recent times as Secretary and then President. Cheryl was catering officer for 3 years, including during the 2019- 2020 bushfires – no mean task. Both are planning to remain members of Tallong RFS.

Cheryl was the long-term manager of Tallong General Store before its sale in 2017 and reincarnation as "The Midge". She was also responsible for re-establishing Tallong's ANZAC services which had been discontinued for several years. Distressed by the difficulty of closing the store to travel to Marulan to attend the service there, Cheryl approached the TCFG committee, and the rest, as we say, is history...

At the morning tea on the 25th, a large cake was cut, and gifts of flowers and a crabapple tree presented to wish Alan and Cheryl well and remind them of the village left behind.

