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Edition 332



From Benalla Ensign April 1984
TATONG SCHOOL LIBRARY OPENED APRIL 1984

Photo of students taken 1987

Through sheer determination and a hard working community, the Tatong Primary School now has an officially-opened library.

The smart new library was built at a cost of about \$9,000 by the community. Various money raising functions which included hay carting, the selling of pine trees from the school plantations and generous donations from Benalla business houses and local families made the venture possible.

Friday afternoon's opening ceremony was an occasion for most of the Tatong community as many parents had children at the school and had attended the school themselves when they were young.

The Tatong Primary School Mother's Club donated a book "Australian Mammals" to commemorate the opening. Head teacher Mr Gary Campbell and President of the School Council, Mr Evan Lewis officially opened the library with the cutting of the ribbon binding the book. Those attending all signed the book to mark the occasion.

The furniture for the library is still to come and has been donated by the government. Now that the people of Tatong have provided the school with a library it is up to the government to maintain it.

ANNUAL DONATION ENVELOPES

An envelope is pasted within this edition allowing you to make a donation towards the production of this newsletter. Our suggested donation is \$1 per copy and for the whole year that totals \$11. Envelopes can be dropped into the secure Tattler bin beside the noticeboard in the Tatong Township, posted to the secretary whose address is on the envelope or given to any member of the committee. It could also be banked to the Tattler account in the GMCU in Bridge St Benalla, next door to the Rustik café. (EFT BSB 803078 A/C 135720)

Donation Envelope

Congratulations are in order to Angus and Bec Macdougall on the safe arrival of their little treasure Emme Skye Macdougall on May 21st. Angus and Bec report being a little sleep deprived but absolutely smitten and enjoying the new born bubble. A lovely addition to Dunmore – and to the Molyullah community.

Janette Knapper



CFA FIRESHED MURAL

Plans are under way to paint a mural on the side of the fire shed facing the Tavern. It is still in the initial stages of submitting a prospective outline to CFA authorities for approval. The proposed mural will be a bush scene featuring local firefighter and an iconic Australian painting. Some of the impetus for this mural is that it be a tribute, after the stress of last summer's fires, to the volunteers who give so much in protecting homes and our environment from fires.

I am the artist convenor and it also seems like a good idea to get onto the Silo Art Trail like the many hamlets north of Benalla who are benefitting from increased town pride and higher tourism numbers. For the purposes of The Art Trail our fire shed is a silo, the same as the already completed silo (water tank) art work in the side carpark of the Tavern. This CFA mural work will be a community project with little or no cost to be incurred because my work is a donation and I have plenty of the basic paint needed as well as equipment, plus probably some bright colours still to come via donation or discounted price. Also scaffolding will be donated for the job.

As a community project it would be good to have some volunteers as well as any 'Furies' who can be coaxed into wielding a brush or roller. It will involve painting simple areas as directed, but as much as possible in your own way. This will be like the mural at the rec reserve in which a few sportspeople and locals did most of the application of paint while I drew, mixed paint and bossed everyone.

As with most largish projects it will take its own good time to get under way but it would be good to get any expressions of interest early so that we can swing into it when the time is right.

Contact me at 0428273613 or on email mike-larkin.md@gmail.com

Mike Larkin

Pop Up Libraries

Sue O'Brien

During COVID19 two street libraries have popped up in Tatong. One on the corner of Tatong Tolmie Rd & Daly Lane which has a lot of dvd's and some books, and another one under the notice board beside the Tatong Tavern that has books, magazines, a few dvd's and the latest issue of the Tattler. Although our library has reopened you might still like to take a book or dvd, or you may even have some to add to what's there.

An unexpected outcome of the coronavirus is that around the world wildlife is taking advantage of empty towns and visiting the deserted streets. One such example is in Llandudno, a resort town on the Irish Sea in northern Wales. During the past week spotted strolling around the town centre was a herd of Kashmir (Cashmere) Goats, which have been enjoying themselves dining on the town's tasty

hedgerows.

How the goats became established there is a tale in itself. In 1837, the Shah of Persia gifted two such animals to Queen Victoria to mark her forthcoming coronation. They joined other Kashmir goats already on Llandudno's nearby headland of Great Orme, and the soft Cashmere wool became very popular, making excellent shawls.

A few years ago, one Kashmir goat, called Billy, of the same bloodline as the Llandudno herd but born in a zoo, became quite a celebrity in Britain. As part of tradition, Billy joined the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in 2001, not as a mascot but as a lance corporal, marching at the head of the battalion on all ceremonial occasions. His handler held the cherished title of Goat Major.

Billy, now named William Windsor 1, performed admirably until he let himself down at a royal parade in Limassol, Cyprus in 2006 when he stepped out of line and tried to head-butt a drummer. William was charged with "unacceptable behaviour" and "lacking decorum" and demoted to fusilier. (I am not making this up). After protests from animal lovers, three months later William was reinstated to lance corporal, his commanding officer explaining that the goat had "time to reflect on his behaviour". The goat retired in 2009 and has been replaced by William Windsor II, who has so far refrained from any head-butting.

Roger Crutchley-Bangkok Post

'I tested very positively in another sense. So this morning I tested positively toward negative, right. So no, I tested perfectly this morning. Meaning I tested negative. But that's a way of saying it. Positively toward the negative.'

– [Donald Trump](#), when asked whether he had had a coronavirus test



Falling Cow Sign.

Used in unfenced mountainous pastures in Spain.

Gawn to Town

Rain on Saturday, they say! By the time this is being read, I'll know how much we really had. Last time they said lots, the forecast amount halved in 24 hours, and was down to about 5ml by the time the day arrived. But, putting at the models aside, an educated guess is the best we've got, and mostly they're pretty good. Forecasting rain is challenging.

A few decades ago one could get quite a surprise. The science of forecasting was less advanced; the best access to forecasts was the nightly news, and they didn't work on weekends. I woke up one Monday to slathering rain which no meteorological person had mentioned. So I'd left my gumboots outside. Damn. (Literally).

"We'll all be rooned, said Hanrahan", and he was right. The rain either doesn't come when it is needed, does come when it isn't wanted, or falls far too hard on fragile surfaces. Or all in one place; we weren't near Benalla in 1993, but I still recall the footage on the news.

Farming has always been a form of gambling, even when gambling was technically illegal. Every farmer accrues experiences of damp which reinforces King Canute's point; a large body of water is not easily stopped.

Rice, for example, is particular about water. The old-fashioned varieties liked to grow in 3 to 6 inches of water. To grow a rice crop, contoured pools were formed with earthen banks, to pond just the right amount of water. (And no, rice growing does not use a high amount of water in comparison with other irrigated crops; but that is another story.) So there are the little rice plants, happily growing away in a shallow pond, when the skies dump five inches of rain overnight. It was my birthday night. I remember it well. Especially the mosquitoes. Heaping up sandbags wasn't much fun, but it was the mosquitoes which really left an impact on my memory. If anyone reading this is old enough to recall that ill-fated and hideous breakfast cereal, "Strawberry Pops", by morning I looked like a bowl of the stuff.



A warmer atmosphere holds more moisture, and is less stable; I understand that is why a warming climate is likely to produce more storms, more floods, and more adventures altogether. We oldies are going to appear quite boring to the future generations of farmers.

Canoeing over flooded creeks, bogging and un-bogging large machinery, wading across a creek in August (oh but that was painful) and taking extended scenic routes to drive anywhere; an excess of water on the landscape brings lots of adventures. Not to mention lots of mosquitoes, in the summertime.

So while your Editor was compiling this great work you see before you, trees were probably toppling over, roads were going under or even, as the Kilfeera road so impressively demonstrated a few weeks back, floating away like a magic carpet. Rain is the thing. We can't live without it, however interesting it gets to live with it.

- Andi Stevenson

HEARTACHE FOR PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS

Grandson Amani, aged 9, is in and out of the RCH being treated for osteosarcoma in his right leg tibia. This is far from being a minor ailment, and the treatment is gruelling with sessions of chemotherapy currently underway and operations to be done eventually for tumour removal and bone replacement. He will be in a wheelchair or hospital bed for many months.

For the family it is a matter of doing whatever we can, which includes prayer for some, because it is fundamentally out of our hands. (If you are happy to do so please include Amani in your prayers) Parents are usually able to fix things for their children but when they cannot their own inner resources are tested to the hilt. While people outside of the family are sympathetic and caring, ultimately we have to deal with such tests in the best way that only we can manage.

Due to the pandemic restrictions only his mum, Anita, and grandmother, Lynda, are allowed to visit and/or stay with him while in the hospital. At this stage he is able to leave the RCH between chemo rounds. Even if others could visit it would not be easy or much fun due mainly to the awkwardness and helplessness of such a situation. What can you say or do when you have no solution except to trust in the hospital treatments and "God's mercy." No amount of money will help because he is getting the best treatment our doctors can give.

Fortunately we cannot predict the future and so we remain hopeful for the best outcome.

Mike Larkin

White Gate



Dates

White Gate Dinner @ The Tatong Tavern is scheduled for Wednesday July 1st, and yes the Tatong Tavern is open for dinner!

A small, select gathering enjoyed a White Gate dinner in June. So exclusive, that I believe the males dined at one table and the females at another.

By July 1st, day length will have extended from the current miserly 9 hours and 38 minutes to a slightly more enjoyable 9 hours and 40 minutes. Get ready to enjoy those extra 2 minutes.

White Gate Fire Brigade Roster:

Andrew Marriott	28 Jun	Angus McMillan	26 Jul
Terry Trounson	5 Jul	Bruce Burgess	2 Aug
Les MacLean	12 Jul	Laurie Defazio	9 Aug
Lewis Vallender	19 Jul	Alan Stafford	16 Aug

- Andrea Stevenson, 0429 439 336



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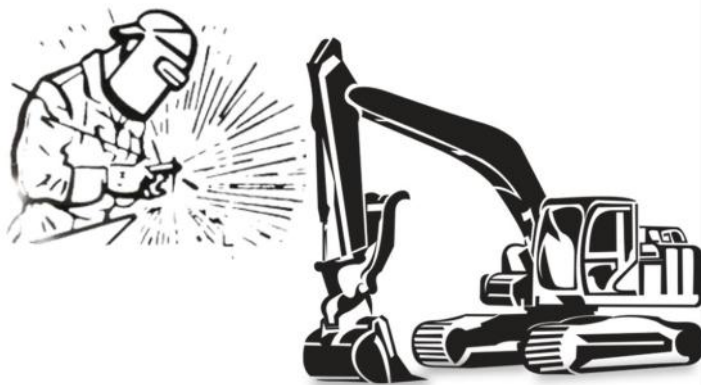
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Garden Daze

The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago - the next best time is now

The Days are starting to lengthen - but still a lot of Winter to go . .

Having found the enthusiasm to start to re-establish the garden bed at the front door, after the rather extensive digging to remove a small tree and blocked water pipes - it was time to decide on climbers to replace the ornamental grapes no longer at each end of the verandah.

Some favourites:

The Hardenbergia genus is a member of the legume family and was named after Franziska Countess von Hardenberg.

Hardenbergia violacea, also known as False Sarsaparilla, or Purple Coral Pea - is an Australian native. Hardy, evergreen with dark green leathery leaves, masses of flowers during winter and spring and a twining woody stem which makes it a good choice to climb a verandah post or hide a fence.



Hardenbergia prefer:

A well drained sunny or semi shaded position. (Full sun will give more flowers.)

Hardenbergia will tolerate some frost. They will trail over rocks or down a slope if desired while a good pruning after flowering will give a more compact look.

The most widely grown variety in Australia is blue *Hardenbergia violacea* there is also a pale pink - *Hardenbergia 'Rosea'* with soft pink flowers, and a pure white *Hardenbergia 'Alba'*.

Point of interest: A friend who had a native plant nursery one morning noticed a white flower on her blue hardenbergia, she propagated a cutting and now has the plant rights to "alba".

Pandorea jasminoides - commonly known as Bower of Beauty or Bower Vine is typically found in warm temperate areas but if provided with sufficient moisture and frost protection when young they will grow quite happily in the southern areas.



Pandorea prefer:

Full sun or part shade for good flowering and some watering in hot areas with low rainfall.

Light doses of slow-release and water soluble fertilisers.

Flowers are white or pale pink trumpet-shaped and they appear in clusters for months from late spring to late autumn. If pruning is required this should be carried out as flowering finishes.

An evergreen, vigorous woody climber Pandorea is another one for the verandah post or to screen unwanted views.

Wisteria: are vigorous, quick-growing vines to be trained into any shape or style - the trick is to grow them tall enough to allow their long flower sprays to hang freely without becoming entangled.



Wisteria need a little winter chill to flower well, and while they aren't fussy about soil, they should be kept well watered after planting until they become established. Apply fertiliser in spring and mid-summer until the vine is the desired size. Then apart from pruning - they look after themselves as they are free from diseases and pests. Overfeeding will produce leaves instead of flowers - the exceptions are those grown under harsh conditions, or in containers.

Wisterias need some general maintenance to keep them flowering and in check. Give a major prune in late spring or early summer after the first new growth has appeared and follow up with a less arduous trim about six weeks later. **Prune prior to January** or flowering shoots will be removed. Any long shoots that appear after these pruning sessions should be removed. This schedule will leave plants in excellent shape to display their blooms in the spring.

There is an excellent video on Gardening Australia *Pruning Your Wisteria* 2 August 2019

Clematis are vigorous vines and with their great variety of flower shapes and colours add beauty while climbing any kind of structure. Flowering from late spring to autumn they can be planted alongside woody plants such as roses, trees and shrubs.

When planting try to dig a hole at least three times wider than the existing clematis root-ball and if conditions are dry, fill the hole with water several times and allow to soak away.

Most clematis varieties develop lots of tough roots while in pots awaiting sale so soak the root ball to enable roots near the base to be partly teased out. Then plant a little deeper than the surrounding soil - this encourages more stems to form, ensuring sturdier plants.

The best fertiliser is well-rotted compost, mixed into the base and sides of the hole. Backfill with top quality potting soil mixed with decomposed organic matter and water thoroughly.

Clematis can also be grown in tubs with a minimum width of at least half a metre and filled with good quality potting soil. Well-shaded, cool roots are important with clematis so, if necessary, spread a layer of flat stones around new plants.



Happy Gardening

Kathy Z

Autumn 2020 – the best for many years.

Have we just had the best Autumn for many years?

For us, here on Sam's Creek, Molyullah, the answer is an emphatic "yes".

A good indicator of the season here is when, and if, the creek starts to flow. I remember Janette's uncle, Lex Devitt, saying "the creek always flows by the end of May".

That 'rule' certainly doesn't apply nowadays. In fact, in our time here, we have experienced several years with no flow at all. We have our own rainfall

records going back to 1991. This Autumn, we have received 455mm of rain, far exceeding 1993 (279mm) and 2016 (250mm), both very wet years.

In both 2017 and 2018, the creek didn't flow at all here, and in 2019 there was a mere trickle for only a few weeks. What a delight to see water flowing in early April this year! Molly, our dog, was just as pleased also.

As of the Tattler deadline, 20th June, we have received 587mm so far this year, nearly as much as the total rainfall for each of the last two years.



Of course, there is a downside to the rain if we get too much at once as happened at the end of April. I was driving Janette home from Wangaratta after her first cataract surgery. It had been quite dry in Wang, but the closer to home, the wetter it became.

There was water across roads and bitumen lifted off

Kilfeera Road and deposited at the side of the road.

June heralded Winter, and right on cue, we had some frosty mornings. The good thing about frosty mornings are the beautiful bright sunny days that follow.

You never know, if we continue to have a good year, we might see some snow here again – it's been quite a few years since we've had a fall here.

John Knapper



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THE GIRL'S SHED

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ALL WELCOME

What's Happening at Molly Rose?

This month my focus is on autumn leaves as we have quite a lot of them laying around. What do you do with autumn leaves?

Autumn's come a bit late this year – there's still an apple tree that has most of its leaves! Which means, in the middle of winter, I'm still raking up leaves.

Considering my lack of fitness due to six-eight weeks of health issues and injuries raking up leaves and wheelbarrowing them to various places around the property has actually been a good way to work on improving my fitness levels.

Over the weeks I've worked up my fitness level to being able to rake up six wheelbarrows of leaves in one session. I can only do two wheelbarrows of dirt though. Yesterday I overdid it and badly wiped myself out by doing five wheelbarrows of mulch, 1 wheelbarrow of dirt and two wheelbarrows of leaves! This morning I did one wheelbarrow of mulch and that was it! Although I've also been able to do wheelbarrows of leaves this afternoon.

Currently this is how I'm using our autumn leaves –

Chook Pens – all the permanent pens get autumn leaves dumped in them as part of our deep litter system. The poultry love scratching through them – piles of leaves are like unexplored treasure. I had three roosters watching me rake up the leaves and as soon as I'd filled the wheelbarrow and left the area those three were on the pile and scratching excitedly.

This year the pen I rotate around the property (which hasn't been moving due to illness and injury) is also getting them. Once I am fit enough to be moving them every few days, I will restore this area by broad-forking, seeding, mulching and covering with fruit tree netting. Very much looking forward to going back to the rotational grazing – the fertiliser on the veranda is unpleasant, especially when you stand in it in your socks! If all goes according to plan I reckon I'll be fit enough to be moving the run before the next Tattler.

Fruit/nut trees – I am raking piles of leaves up around the bases of the fruit trees and also dumping 2-3 wheelbarrows of dirt on top of them. Theory being that this will help the leaves decompose over the roots of the tree so that in spring they will have extra nutrients to absorb. In the northern hemisphere where it snows, this is effectively what happens but as it rarely snows here in Molyullah I need to try something different.

Hugelkultur – I've used this concept (sticks and logs) for one of the garden beds by the permanent pens and built another one over a stump. Over the sticks I've dumped multiple wheelbarrows of leaves and straw. The rain has well-watered them. It took three wheelbarrows of dirt to cover the one built over the stump. Now to repeat the process. After more leaves, mulch and dirt, the hugelkultur bed over the stump should be ready to plant out in spring.

The bed by the permanent pen required around eight wheelbarrows of leaves so will need about the same amount of wheelbarrows of dirt! And then I will need to repeat the process! If all goes according to plan, I'm hoping to build another hugelkultur bed over another stump, a second in another garden bed at the permanent pens and to build one more in one of our big metal beds to do as a comparison with the wicking bed we're also building.



Compost – Recently I was chatting with a guy who was telling me that when they first moved into their place the previous owners had raked up a massive pile of leaves (London Plane). He said it took him about a year before he got round to doing anything with the leaves and by that time, he mostly had a great big pile of compost. He is considering getting some of those sheep panels and building and filling that with leaves and letting it sit for 12-18 months. If I have any leaves left over they will definitely go into the compost, but I'm suspecting there won't be any. Perhaps next year I'll be open to donations of autumn leaves.

A quick update about Ziggy Stardust – in the last week he has started going into the main pen with the main flock without us needing to take him down there separately! I've put up a couple of videos on our Molly Rose Heritage Harvest Facebook page of letting the flock out to free range and putting them back in at night. <https://www.facebook.com/MollyRoseHeritageHarvest/> and what I've written for this month's Tattler about autumn leaves is also a post on our page.

On a different note entirely – we've tried tennis a couple of times at the Molyullah courts. I can walk a little bit to hit a ball, but have to be careful. By the end of each session my ankle was tired and sore. Is there anybody in the area willing to give a few tennis lessons? Kids just want to be good enough to hit the ball back and forth a few times and have fun.

Write you again next month!

Carla

Suck it Up

SEPTIC PUMP OUTS

Why is it important to pump my septic tank out regularly?

Over time scum and sludge layers build up in your septic tank, eventually limiting the amount of available liquid. This does not allow the septic tank to perform one of its basic functions - to allow for settling of solids below the outlet level.

The waste will then flow directly on to the next part of the system untreated. If this situation persists, the scum and sludge will flow through to the distribution field, eventually causing blockages and malfunction - a messy, smelly and costly exercise to repair.

It is recommended that septic tanks are pumped out every 3 - 5 years



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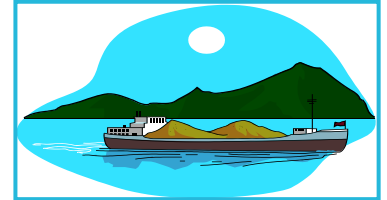
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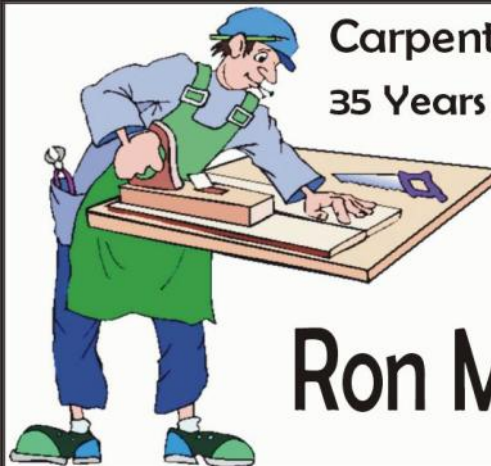


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2010	39	153.7	86.4	65.2	67.5	82.8	67.5	162.1	116.8	123.7	109.2	150.8	1224.7
2011	107	177.3	65.0	36.1	62.9	47.1	84.5	81.0	67.3	32.0	88.3	46.3	894.7
2012	82.5	94.0	184.9	18.1	35	57.6	115.8	92.1	35.5	34	28	30.1	773.6
2013	1.8	52.4	85.5	8.4	43.0	60.1	112.1	141.1	61.2	27.5	26.2	65.3	684.6
2014	33.9	16.4	86.4	89.6	82.8	146.5	98.8	9.8	68.5	20.4	58.5	64.2	775.8
2015	44.7	29.1	5.7	87.4	70	33.7	97.3	69.4	25.7	13.7	55.5	81.7	613.9
2016	69.7	11.9	36.9	38.5	117.2	110.5	142.8	108.4	172.1	91.4	50.1	101.3	1050.8
2017	67.6	36.2	49.1	61.7	52.5	6.5	92.1	112.4	23.9	100.1	29.3	118.9	760.3
2018	34.3	6.4	24.9	13.7	49.8	67.2	52.8	81.2	25.1	22.3	75	73.1	525.8
2019	27.7	13.2	23.8	22.7	105	72.9	83.7	49.4	51.3	34.9	37.9	40.8	563.3
2020	63.6	35.6	88.4	207.2	53								457.8

WEATHER IN THE TATONG TOWNSHIP

Still getting regular rainfall with a good 53mm for the month of May and 42mm up until the 15th of June. A little bit too many morning frosts in early June for me but usually fine days to follow which is most pleasant. One thing Tatong's township rarely gets, except for just lately, is fog but it does not last too long. I just hate it when fog lingers and you know that just above it the sun is shining.

Mike Larkin

TATONG HALL TO CELEBRATE 50 YEARS

The Tatong Hall committee will celebrate this great occasion on Sunday 30th August 2020 commencing at 2.00pm with a historical display and catch up with friends and meet new community members.

A high tea will be served at 3.00pm.

This is an occasion to celebrate the great foresight of the community of that time and who had faith in the future for the locals to enjoy over the last 50 years and for future generations to come.

This is a community event and everyone is welcome to attend this historic afternoon.

For more information and to advise of your attendance for catering, please phone 57672251 or 57672324 .

We look forward to seeing you there.

The original hall was built in 1905 and served the community well, but after over 60 years the committee decided it was time to upgrade.

From The Ensign Wednesday September 2, 1970

"An occasion Tatong will always remember" New Hall officially opened Friday 28 August 1970 where over 500 people attended to celebrate this occasion. Cr Jensen, Shire President when opening the hall said Tatong could now boast the "best hall in the Shire".

Joan Lewis



The Tatong Heritage Group meeting scheduled for the 27th July is cancelled. The group is in recess until at least September.

Andrea Stevenson-President

Is there somewhere in our area a reliable plumber? Over the past two or three years we have sought such a beast to no avail. First one came to see what was needed and said he would get back to us but never did.

The next one came, did some of the required work, sent a rather large bill for the work which was badly done. When contacted re this we were told that he would drop in when next in the area. That must have been two years ago. In spite of reminders about this nothing has been done and the problem remains.

So we tried again for another one. This one came, looked at what was needed and said he would get back to us. Well that didn't happen. Saw him in a local shop and he stated he would be over on Monday. That must have been about 6 weeks ago. Still waiting.

If you don't want the work, just say so. Meanwhile our gutter still leaks and the hot water inlet still freezes among other problems.

Sallie Hann

RIP DOCTOR ROSEMARY WILLIAMS

Sadly Rosemary passed away mid-June. I will only briefly mention her as I am sure someone else will write a more substantial eulogy for the much loved and respected person that she was.

I found her to be authentic, determined and very thoughtful about Tatong and its people. Apart from doing electrical work for her and Nita I first experienced her strength and community involvement when she was part of the log truck committee which worked hard to get a fair deal for the residents along the trucking routes through the town and beyond.

Rosemary was an example to me of someone who was humble but strong, highly qualified and yet 'one of us.'

Mike Larkin

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*A donation of \$1 per issue, or \$10 per year,
is appreciated & helps cover costs. The Tattler is
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Donations can be:

- ▲ Given to Committee Members
- ▲ Left in the Locked Box by the Tavern
- ▲ or EFT'd to GMCU, BSB 803 078, A/C 135720, Tatong Tattler.

DEADLINE

The Tattler Deadline is end of the **20th of the month.**

Submit via e-mail to tatongtattler@yahoo.com.au
or post to: Darcy Hogan, 150 Mt Joy Rd, Tatong, 3673.

Format for Tattler Submissions

The Tatong Tattler is set up in Microsoft Publisher.

Text can be submitted in the body of an email; or in file formats such as .doc, .docx, .rtf, or .txt.

Photos (as jpgs) can be attached, to be laid out by editor.

If your layout is important, submitting your work in MS Publisher is ideal. (*The Editor may need to adjust your layout.*) If laid out in a **Word** document, the text & photos will need to be copied into Publisher; however the Editor will have an idea of your preferred layout.

The content of a PDF file can be difficult to extract.

If you require help, contact one of the Tattler committee.