

Gidge Gossips - November 2016

Last Gidgegram for the year and how fast it has gone. Thanks to the editor, Sandra Harms, for all her hard work and patience! Thanks also to the Agricultural Society for funding the publication. No – they don't just organise a great Show they do a great deal more in our community and really appreciate our support so how about going along to their AGM in February and take an active part in such a hard working organisation.

What a year it has been, the longest, coldest winter I can remember since leaving the UK some thirty years ago. Very wet as well, almost 900mm for the year here in frosty hollow. Great for the dams and water courses and pasture, but not so good now we are all trying to cope with the immense growth, which is representing a huge fire risk for this summer. Am moving stock around and getting them to eat out round the buildings to create a better fire break. The better half has been slashing and mowing for the last month. I have been down on my hands and knees weeding – never seen so many but the only way to do a good job. Great help from Woosha and Simmo. Simmo is particularly keen on digging and pruning.

The cows have been a big help in all this although we have had to restrain Simmo from getting through the fence and chasing them Not a good idea – play to start with and then can turn nasty. Sheep have been attacked and killed in all areas of Gidge, North East, East and Berry Roads and also Mayo Road. So be aware and if you hear excited yelping get out there and check it out.

Thanks to Kasanova sticking around we have now had a proliferation of little, cute, black calves. Love to see them playing but need to get them tagged, etc. pretty early on as they get very strong in just a couple of weeks. Sheep are all looking good on the great pasture. Thanks to Bruce and Vic for shearing them in early October – it will not be a good year for flies.

Have had the satellite broadband upgraded to NBN. Iinet/Westnet have taken space on the second satellite and very efficiently installed the new service and took the old dish away. Still waiting for the Mobile Black spot funded tower in North Gidge. 2016 delivery seems to have been blown out of the water and we really need this mobile coverage with the upcoming fire season. That is a promise that is not going to materialise.

Recently we had those extremely annoying split second outages in power, which sends all the electrical equipment crazy. Queried Western Power and got the following response.

The presentation of these outages suggested some passing or intermittent fault had taken place and we know from experience the common cause of these types of faults are environmental factors, like birds and vegetation. In the main any equipment

failure issue is typically permanent rather than passing so the power will not automatically restore when protection systems attempt it.

In this case however we have had crews in the area after taking customer reports and we are now reasonably certain of these details:

Date	Time	Cause
31/10/16	21:38	Crow v high voltage – Stoneville Rd, Mundaring
01/11/16	20:04	Possum v high voltage – Walker St, Mundaring
02/11/16	18:20	Crow v high voltage – Stoneville Rd, Mundaring

While these are common fault cause issues and typically very difficult to control we have taken follow up action in an attempt to prevent further outages. The fuse assembly damaged on the night of 1 /11 has been rebuilt and given the two bird faults were identified as having taken place on the same pole, bird spikes are being fitted by live line crews.

So let's hope that works – vale two crows and a possum!

It seems that the **Picnic by the lake has been postponed until 27th November.** The weather will be great and the lake will look stunning after all the rain. This is an idyllic afternoon sitting on the lawn going down to the Lake under marquees sharing a wonderful hamper and being serenaded by Paul on his guitar. Come along and enjoy the day. Details of bookings under Experience Gidge.

Thanks to Jan for this touching little story:

A Love Story

A couple were Christmas shopping.

The shopping centre was packed; as the wife walked through one of the arcades she was surprised when she looked around to find that her husband was nowhere to be seen.

She was quite upset because they had a lot to do. She became so worried that she called him on her mobile phone to ask him where he was.

In a quiet voice he said, "Do you remember the jewellers we went into about five years ago where you fell in love with that diamond necklace that we couldn't afford, and I told you that I would get it for you one day?"

The wife choked up and started to cry and said, "Yes, I do remember that shop."

He replied, "Well, I'm in the pub next door."

A wonderful Christmas to you all and a great New Year.