

# “Wiskas” Grave



**This is the site of the grave of “Wiskas” the dog, a much loved and constant companion to Don Scharlemann. Don had been trying his hand at alluvial mining at Donnelly’s Creek for a number of years. He had a sluicing plant by the creek near his dwelling and other huts. Don was bereft when his dog died of old age in 1961 and he constructed the memorial to “Wiskas” up the hill where winter flood waters would not touch it. As well as a miner, Don was an automotive engineer with businesses in Melbourne’s west and the Latrobe Valley.**

The remarkable thing about “Wiskas” was that he would visit everyone in the district before returning home at night. He would go to Aberfeldy, see the people there, down to Code’s Flat, up to the New Dawn Mine and back home again to Donnelly’s Creek, picking up tasty morsels from every person he visited. He never strayed away from home overnight.

Don Scharlemann had been badly injured during World War II and had burns to over fifty percent of his body. He was in hospital for a long time and it was coming to Donnelly’s Creek fossicking for gold and having the company of “Wiskas” that helped bring him back to resuming a full life. Late in his life he married Helen who was a wonderful wife to him and stuck by him through all his ups and downs. Don and “Wiskas” were friends of all the Aberfeldy-ites including the Collards, Searles, Codes and many more.

*Inscribed on the tombstone are the words*

***Wiskas Don’s***

***Best Friend***

***1.7.61 11 YEARS***

**Source: Grahame Code and Alison McMinn.**

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