Our Canberra Campers, Tessa, Cherry and Kelly, wrote this wonderful story about our new school Mascot, Wattle.

Wattle will be joining Tidbin Bill and Quokky!!

WATTLE’S STORY

I was all alone on my shelf for many months. Many kids would walk past me and give me a cuddle but they always put me back.

Then one day as I was getting ready for another boring day on my very lonely, uncomfortable shelf, three beautiful, kind, well mannered, sweet, charming girls walked in. I could tell these were the ones!

They picked me up and my heart was pounding like never before. They said, “She’s so cute. Can we keep her?”

After a long while of discussing why I should go home with them the man gave in. “Fine,” he said. They jumped with joy. I was starting to get dizzy as they passed me from one to another. They showed me around the gallery that we had always seen but never actually been in. I nearly collapsed as they showed me the biggest snake (that’s what they said it was called) I had ever seen. Then there were other scary looking animals.

At first they started calling me Pinecone because I’m spikey. Then they had a long vote about a new name; not all of them agreed with my name. Then Tessa said, “What about Wattle for the flower?” Cherry and Kelly, the other two girls, agreed. “That’s perfect”. So that’s my name and I absolutely adore it.

They wrapped me up in a beanie. It was just like my mumma’s pouch, so cosy and warm.

It seemed as if we had been driving for ages!! As we arrived at our new home they opened up a drawer, put in a pillow and wrapped me up and put me in; so warm and soft!

The next day they said I had to stay because they were going up a hill and seeing snow, whatever that is and turning into blocks of ice. Hmmm! Then they left for eight hours.

When they got back I was so happy to see them – I’m glad they didn’t turn into an ice block. We ordered chops, oh no, it was chips for dinner.

After dinner we all went to bed but Tessa, Cherry and Kelly kept me up because they were talking. In the morning they kept telling me about my new cousins and I think that their names were ummm, Tidbin Bill and Quokky.

That night I had a restless sleep because somebody shoved me down in between the bed and drawers which was a very uncomfortable and a tight fit! In the morning I had a sleep in but when I woke up everybody was gone! They probably left me to guard the apartment to make sure that nobody would come and steal anything. I was such a good “watch Echidna”. I had just been sitting on the bench when I heard a knock on the door. “YIPPEE they were back”, I thought. Then they knocked again KNOCK KNOCK “House Keeping.” “Oh no false alarm.” It wasn’t them after all. This lovely lady came in and made the beds and dusted the tables. Then she started walking towards me. “Oh no,” I thought, “She might kidnap me!!” She picked me and……. she wiped underneath me. Oh whew she didn’t kidnap me! She went and left me all alone again until I heard the door creak and footsteps running up the hall YAY this time they were back. Tessa and Cherry raced into the bathrooms grabbing all the shampoo and soaps then fighting about them. That night I had a much better sleep because this time I was on a pillow laying down on the floor. Oh I had the best sleep ever with no interruptions what so ever.

Now I am in a new home at a place called Carnarvon School of the Air. I have met my cousins, Tidbin Bill and Quokky. The girls have told me that there are so many other children who would all love to meet me. I think it would be great for me to travel around this new place and see the new children. I KNOW they would love me as much as Tidbin Bill and Quokky say they are loved by the other kids. So if you would like me to come and visit you please contact the old man who was with us; I think his name was Mr McCloy. At least that’s what it sounded like! He will get me a ticket to travel out and see you but you will have to write about your adventures with me and send in a few photos of the places we go.

Don’t forget me!

Wattle.