

# Landscapes: the Journal of the International Centre for Landscape and Language

---

Volume 10  
Issue 1 *Landscapes: 'The Idea of North'*

Article 8

---

December 2020

## After Rain

Louise Boscacci  
*University of Wollongong*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ro.ecu.edu.au/landscapes>



Part of the [Australian Studies Commons](#), [English Language and Literature Commons](#), [Environmental Studies Commons](#), [Nature and Society Relations Commons](#), and the [Philosophy Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Boscacci, L. (2020). After Rain. *Landscapes: the Journal of the International Centre for Landscape and Language*, 10(1).

Retrieved from <https://ro.ecu.edu.au/landscapes/vol10/iss1/8>

This Poetry is posted at Research Online.  
<https://ro.ecu.edu.au/landscapes/vol10/iss1/8>

## After Rain

*Louise Boscacci (University of Wollongong, Australia)*

I

When it rains  
the smell is not  
petrichor but  
charcoal,

a musty sickness stuck  
to brittle  
ground.

Underfoot and patient  
after that long trace  
Saturday  
calling up the blood  
moon, mobile

networked ahead of all hotspot maps  
and embers of rage, your damp ghost,  
Fire, candles our shaky  
after-calm.

II

Shiver.

III

I heard the cuckoo-shrike  
Sunday,  
afternoon cloud  
sousing  
the scarp  
flat, black-faced

at birth, no silent  
evacuee smudged  
by carbon's  
terror plume.

Good Luck Bird,  
Molly Aura, Fortune-sifter,  
Greyscale Glider,  
Canopy Seer. Good  
luck, bird.

IV

Behind the over-cooked  
pot, umber water jar  
rent by heat  
in those early  
hours you slept unbroken  
with kiln free to run,  
leaf shards  
huddle where  
they dropped the night  
we ran once,  
twice, three times  
from fire's arc.

V

Country of the faeries  
no more, flammagenitus  
bears dry dead  
thunder.<sup>1</sup> Pyro-cricket  
underground queue after  
rain to resurface.

—January 7, 2020.



Figure 1. The approaching Currowan-Morton fire front, as it crossed the Shoalhaven River to enter the Wingecaribbee district of the Illawarra (Southern) Highlands of New South Wales, 4 January 2020. This vantage point of watch and act was above the village of Fitzroy Falls, just out of sight below the water reservoir in the middle ground, in Wodi Wodi and Yuin country. (Photograph: Louise Boscacci).

---

<sup>1</sup> A flammagenitus, from *Cumulus flammagenitus*, is a fire cloud commonly known as a pyrocumulus. The most intense version is a pyrocumulonimbus, capable of generating its own thunderstorm of lightning and black hail, and casting embers kilometres ahead to spark new blazes. (WMO, International Cloud Atlas, n.d., <https://cloudatlas.wmo.int/en/flammagenitus.html>).