



# Eucalyptus rubida

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Water dripping off Silver Wattle on a cool August morning at Glenburn. There are at least four wattle types on the property that will flower from August to October.

## We are Co-Creators with the Universe!

A life-form is never aware of evolutionary change until it is upon it. Nor is it a simple thing to envision what the new might be like. A complex interaction of forces coming from the inner or psychological realm, the cultural or tribal experience of people, and the reaction of the natural realm around us moulds our individual and collective identity. Even the galaxy has an inbuilt creativity that virtually guarantees the progress of life.

Until recently the reaction of the natural realm to the presence of the human was ever so gradual that species could adapt to it even as it adapted to us. However, the current response of nature is rapidly overwhelming us, that is only recently when we have begun to wake up.

What I think we are witnessing in its early stages is the coming into alignment of the interests of the whole with those of the parts. We are realising that the activity of the human species is in serious conflict with the interests of the whole of which we are a part, and the penny has begun to drop.

The necessary realization for us is to understand that we are an integral part of the whole. The community of the planet is slowly awakening as a planetary consciousness, and we are invited by the very "arrow of evolution" or "God-force" to embrace as a conscious and loving element this next phase of our mysterious universe. Theology would refer to this as God's ongoing plan.

Species have come from the sea only to return to it as the whales have done. Other species took to the air as birds, before returning to it again as flightless species. For these and other species the story was one of change or perish, and yet for them this inbuilt creative life-force prevailed. Every species is a co-creator with the universe, in that it possesses the in-built life-force that strains towards greater fulfilment.

If we fail (have we already failed?) this life-force will probably go on to re-mould a new consciousness in some other form. We are being invited, I believe, into a new consciousness which is independent ultimately of any religion, ideology or socio-political group. The test of authenticity for any group of humans will be in whether their activity is aligned to the interests of

the whole Earth Community.

This is the acid test, the Great Work<sup>^</sup> we all face in this 21st Century. We need a new study of life's big questions:

Where are we going?

Why are we here?

What ultimately matters?

How are we to live? \*

One of the facets of this study will need to be, I think, a better appreciation of our place in the universe, as we can now have from science. For example, a meditative appreciation that our origins began just moments after the Great Flaring Forth 13.7 billion years ago, when the atoms of our bodies were formed in this boiling cauldron, before spinning off into space to become the early stars, and then coming together into gigantic galaxies.



Lake Mungo Sunrise

This force of allurement has powered all our atoms ever since as they went through the stages of exploding supernovas to produce the chemical elements of life, and then finding their place on a tiny planet around a brand new sun: Earth, the only planet to be allowed by the others to inhabit the 'life zone'.

And as soon as Earth cooled enough, and the steam had condensed to produce rain and eventually the seas, our atoms could

not wait to produce the early single-celled life forms in the sea. And in the blink of a galactic moment we had arrived in our present form after a great odyssey of prior life forms. Atoms and molecules that were once mountains, and dinosaurs, are now writing and reading this article, still getting their energy from that original Flaring Forth; still full of creativity and that allurement, that we recognise in ourselves as that mysterious life-force, straining forward to produce new forms of giving, caring and comprehensive concern. This has been the message of the scriptures and the 'sages' of all times, and now we have to practice it as members of a new and wider species - *Homo planetarius* - to coin a phrase. Not just us alone, or tribal, but us continuous with the Earth Community, with a new planetary vision.

I have always loved the quote from Dr Zhivago, where former priest and revolutionary, Uncle Kolya, and now aspiring writer (Pasternak?) wrote in his diary:

*".....These cosmogonies belong to the ancient world - a world peopled so sparsely that nature was not yet overshadowed by man (sic)..... Nature hit you in the eye so plainly and grabbed you so fiercely and so tangibly by the scruff of the neck that perhaps it was still full of gods. ....And then into this tasteless heap of gold and marble, He came, light footed and clothed in light, with his marked humanity, his deliberate Galilean provincialism, and from that moment there were neither gods nor peoples, there was only man - man the carpenter, man the ploughman, man the shepherd with his flock of sheep at sunset, man whose name does not sound in the least proud, but who is sung in lullabies and portrayed in picture galleries the world over."*

I sense from this former clerical figure in the novel (Uncle Kolya) the idea that the coming of Jesus of Nazareth is celebrated as another, earlier quantum jump for the human race in its 13.7 billion year story: some kind of jump from the old to the new but not negating the old. Food for thought for Christians in the 21st century.

Trevor Parton

<sup>^</sup>See book of this name by Thomas Berry

\* See Michael Dowd: *Thank God for Evolution.*