



The love of field and coppice
Of green and shaded lanes.
Of ordered woods and gardens
Is running in your veins,
Strong love of grey-blue distance
Brown streams and soft, dim skies
I know but cannot share it,
My love is otherwise.

I love a sunburnt country,
A land of sweeping plains,
Of ragged mountain ranges,
Of drought and flooding rains.
I love her far horizons,
I love her jewel-sea,
Her beauty and her terror –
The wide brown land for me!

A stark white ring-barked forest
All tragic to the moon,
The sapphire-misted mountains,
The hot gold hush of noon.
Green tangle of the brushes,
Where lithe lianas coil,
And orchids deck the tree-tops
And ferns the warm dark soil.

Core of my heart, my country!
Her pitiless blue sky,
When sick at heart, around us
We see the cattle die –
But then the grey clouds gather,
And we can bless again
The drumming of an army,
The steady, soaking rain.

Core of my heart, my country!
Land of the Rainbow Gold,
For flood and fire and famine,
She pays us back threefold –
Over the thirsty paddocks,
Watch, after many days,
The filmy veil of greenness
That thickens as we gaze.
Dorothea Mackellar



Dear Friends,

Happy New Year to each and everyone.

As we approach “Australia Day” I can’t help but think of Dorothea McKellar and her poem “I Love a Sunburnt Country”. I’ve attached photos I’ve taken over the years which depict the fires, the floods, the blue of the ocean, the sunset, and the rocks of Uluru. This land is an ancient land and a beautiful and awesome one. It is filled with many peoples beginning with our Indigenous brothers and sisters, refugees from overseas, our own ancestors from the UK and Europe and peoples from far flung places of our planet. We are all made in the image of God and are a part of God’s family. I pray that we will work together to make this country one where God’s love reaches out to all. As the song says, this is the Great Southland of the Holy Spirit and so let us pray for the awakening of God’s Holy Spirit, across our land.

[The Great Southland ~ Geoff Bullock ~ lyric video - Bing video](#)

This is the Great Southland of the Holy Spirit
A land of red dust plains and summer rains
To this sun-burnt land we will see a flood
And to this Great Southland His Spirit comes

In Christian love
Lyn

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