

' e c o s y s t e m '

coloured pencil on pine board

60 x 120 cm

From ocean's floor to mountain's peak,
A gum, a kookaburra, a waratah seeks
Rivers, ocean-views and desert lands.

Distant cries of black cockatoo
Warn of storms coming
With wind-rains of tossle-pours.

Mottlecah stems and flowers jive and curtsy,
As kingfisher plunges to feed his family,
Diving deep for Murray cod;
While further down the river's bank
Tassy devil nibbles his recent find of bilby feet.

But not all is carnage,
For in all ecosystems and seasons
A myriad of things must balance each other.

From frolicking birds, flowers, and gums
To frilled-neck lizards that feast on insect-yums,
Blue-banded bees pollinating
And honeyeaters wattle-mingling
As kola nibbles his eucalyptus fill

While bower bird below

Collecting blue treasures and wreath strips

Makes a nest of woo.

With climb-jumps

Rock wallabies summit the snow peak,

Where rainbow gums and willy wagtail survey all,

Seeing sister peak with spark of seasonal fire,

And further afield

A pelican and ibis

Sworn in a reed and swampland truce

Linger amongst the distant boab shade.

But among those so easily seen

The smallest ones —

Like butterfly and blue-banded bee

Flourish and flow Nature's trinity

Of plant, animal, and soil

Budding life through peace and turmoil.

