



*We Mercies*

## *Care for Creation*

*As we take the first step, let us remember the traditional custodians of the land*

**We respect and honour and admire you, O trees.**



**August 2017**  
Ed. Anne McLay

You represent both Power and Peace.

We give thanks for your blessing on our lives and on our  
lands.

This is an account by Margie Abbott RSM  
about her relationship with a tree in her street.  
On a recent visit here she joined us for a Care for Creation meeting  
and told us about it.

She has written this for our newsletter.

Three years ago I made a big decision to move from a very familiar Adelaide to an unknown Geelong. I wanted to be closer to my family as I age.

As incredible as this may sound I discovered a welcoming tree on a suburban street that filled my loneliness without making any demands on me. I kept returning, standing under the branches and feeling like I really mattered. The experience is like a warm shower or a waterfall cascading giving nourishment and life.

From thinking about other than human as 'it' I personalised to 'you' and said out aloud every time I passed the tree "you are beautiful and I love you" - I stop at this tree most days and touch the trunk; feel the wood of the bark and experience joy. I always speak out aloud and if I am riding my bike or driving the car I always repeat this ritual.

For the first time recently I shared my love for this tree with a little group of people who amazed me with their respectful reverence and one of them reminded me it works both ways and the tree also benefits, receiving life from me.

I pass other trees every day and I do not have the same experience as I feel with my tree. I am definitely feeling that I am in a relationship and this is beyond my comprehension. I am very grateful and blessed.

The universe is composed of subjects to be communed with, not objects to be exploited. Everything has its own voice. Thunder and lightning and stars and planets, flowers, birds, animals, trees, ~~ all these have voices, and they constitute a community of existence that is profoundly related.

- Thomas Berry