

EVENING STAR AT COOPER'S CROSSING

1. Over all the cooling sand,
the darkening blanket falls,
and just beyond the Coolibahs
I see the evening star - I see the evening star.
2. Nothing breathes to move a leaf,
and silence like a load.
no insect wing to tremble air,
but still the evening star - but still the evening star.
3. Furnace-hot, each midday taunts
and lies with mirage haze,
but twilight brings its truthfulness,
the lovely evening star - the lovely evening star.
4. Burke and Wills lie sleeping here,
the sands and stones their bed,
where all the world has lost its breath
except the evening star - except the evening star.
5. Jesus, when we lose our way
and silence taunts us through
our parched and burning emptiness -
please be our evening star - please be our evening star.

1983. Another of Aub Podlich's lovely poems. The melody is actually a very simple tune, and could easily be an Australian-Irish melody. The song was transformed for me when Gerard Holmes, keyboard player and songwriter with an angelic voice, did a very different treatment of it in preparation for recording the collection of songs that became RECONNECT US. With Doug Petherick doing his usual great bass work, & some inspired lead guitar from Rick Nankivell, the song became a strong finish for the collection.