

# FORCES OF NATURE

By Ian Menzies

As I write, a fierce, warm wind is blowing. It's springtime, so this isn't unusual. Where I live, the traditional indigenous season for this time of year is known as Petyan, the season of wildflowers (from late-August to mid-November). The bush bursts into life; the days are warmer but the weather can be tempestuous.

What a time of year it is! We begin to emerge from winter's grip to an outburst of golden wattles and daffodils: flora, both indigenous and exotic, delights the eye in an ongoing cycle of rebirth.

Deciduous plants begin to bud into blossom and leaf. Sap rises. And the wind blows. Throughout the world, this pandemic year has brought huge, unexpected change

and challenges. Like the wind, it arrived suddenly and unseen across the globe, leaving countless lives and lifestyles tattered in its wake.

Fundamental questions arose about the importance of economies in comparison to the importance of health and care for the vulnerable. Sides were taken. Passions were raised. And still the wind blows. The wattles and daffodils bloom. So what of faith? Where is God? The Bible is filled with numerous stories of trials and suffering; seasons of hardship and plenty.

The constant throughout is the wind, the Spirit, changing and challenging, inspiring and renewing. But ever present. Thank God, the wind still blows.

## Reflection:

*The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."*

John 3:8