

THE MANAGER

(Neil Murray)

By 1984, the Warumpi Band needed a manager. I contacted David Cooke and asked him to come up to Alice Springs and give us a hand. He arrived the night we were playing Amoonguna- a nearby community. I asked him to do the door where a mob of drunks were clamouring to get in. Despite the look of initial terror on his face he handled it- as he would do for the next 15 years or so- with great diligence, persistence and loyalty. We wouldn't have gotten anywhere without him. He died suddenly from a heart attack on October 28th, 2021. He was 64.

The manager left the room today
Looks like he's gone to stay
He's not waiting for the final curtain call
He won't be there to greet you backstage

No more errands will he run for you
No more breakdowns will he fix
He won't be putting your water out on stage
You'll have to write your own set list

Would you know how much he gave?
Or did you take him for granted?
Do you know where you would be?
without the manager to make it happen.

So long Cookie, too many long and ragged miles we did
Just for the thrill and disappointment shared
We had to make our mark on the country somehow
And you were the one to get us there

We did it once, we won't do it again
You've left us all behind
Made a quick exit before the final encore
Checked out long before your time

Would you know how much he gave?
Or did you take him for granted?
Do you know where you would be
without the manager and the roadies
to make it happen.

The manager left the room today