

IT WAS TOLD

(Neil Murray)

This arrived out of research and reflection into the history- both oral and written - of early coastal encounters between Aboriginals and Europeans that preceded the colonisation of Australia.

When the first tall ship came
We were scared, we were afraid
For it was told in the stars
Strangers would come from afar
To our land, once they had seen
They would return and never leave
What kind of men would believe
Their way of life was so supreme
That they must take another's home
For their King to call his own
Even though people lived there
They could not see
We were like them
They could not see
We were like them

With the power of a gun
They would take and we would run
Of our ways in our sacred land they didn't understand
They thought their way of life
Was better, that it was right
That we be dispossessed,
To make way for progress.
To make way for progress.

And now, here we are
Living together and apart
As one nation in the modern world
With all its wonders and its curse
Lest we forget our own past
And the people who were here first
Who lost their freedom but shared their land
To the newcomers, lent a hand
For it was told in the stars
Strangers would come from a far
And they would sail the southern sea
Just to meet our destiny
Just to meet our destiny.