

# The Camel Boy

John Williamson

They called him Camel Boy  
But he was a man  
He walked behind us ...with a billy  
He tended the campfire ... and he made the tea  
Drowned in the colours ... we didn't see

And the ghost gums stand ... gleaming white  
Showed him a paint brush ... he showed us the light  
I apologise ... for the condescension  
Paid no attention to the pain of the Camel Boy

It's Namatjira ... he became the one  
We remember ... all alone  
Under a huge sky ... with a gentle hand  
Painted the pictures ... of an ancient land

What fools we were ... what did we mean  
Dressed in white ... to meet the queen  
Take down her picture ... hang up a ghost gum  
Put up a landscape... by the Camel Boy

'Cause her majesty... was in his eye  
The 'sleeping lubra', the Aranda sky  
I apologise...for the condescension  
Paid no attention to the pain of the Camel Boy

And the ghost gums stand ... gleaming white  
Showed him a paint brush ... he showed us the light  
Drowned in the colours ... we didn't see  
What a man was he ... Albert the Camel Boy  
Albert the Camel Boy  
Namatjira the Camel Boy