

# As Leichhardt Saw It Then

Slim Dusty

In the days of great explorers  
Ludwig Leichhardt rose to fame  
He saw this country's beauty  
Before the settlers came  
The water holes were full of fish  
He saw the emus run  
And wildfowl rose in millions  
Till they hid the rising sun

He camped among the woodlands  
Untouched by white man's hands  
Swam unpolluted rivers  
And trod their unmarked sands  
The wild sand of the bushland  
Soaked deep into his chest  
His horses grazed new pastures  
As he headed north by west

Let me take a page from history  
And write this land again  
Or I'd like to see this country  
Just as Leichhardt saw it then

He didn't that know that progress  
Would rape this virgin scene  
And change the face of nature  
With pests and foreign weeds  
He couldn't see as we have seen  
Our topsoil disappear  
From fires and overstocking  
And scrub being pulled each year

His vision never pictured the future would unfold  
The side of old car bodies and litter on our roads  
Back where the silent blue gums stood  
And native bears would peer  
We now hear rows of traffic like an insult to our ear

Let me take a page from history  
And write this land again  
Or I'd like to see this country  
Just as Leichhardt saw it then

Perhaps there's few of us who care  
Or dream about the past  
We're busy doing better with our modern ways so fast  
But should they grant to me a wish  
Before I meet my end  
Oh, I'd like to see this country  
Just as Leichhardt saw it then

Let me take a page from history  
And write this land again  
'Cause I'd like to see this country  
Oh I'd like to see this country (yeah)  
Oh I'd like to see this country  
Just as Leichhardt saw it then