

# FAR OUT WEST

(Neil Murray)

*A condition- commonly experienced by early explorers and nineteenth century bush poets but prevalent also in contemporary times. A person is lured by the romance and adventure of the "far out west"-which is usually the outback or anywhere that is beyond the reach of ordinary settled or urban life. Our hero endures many trials in the "west" to the extent that he may regret ever having come- so he seeks a return to his former life or home. But when he does, he finds he can't relate to it as he has been irrevocably changed by his experience in "the west". In essence, the "far out west" has won him.*

I was born with a restless heart  
I watched the horizon from morning till dark  
I couldn't wait to take a first step  
On my way to the far out west

They said why you wanna go way out there?  
This is your home you belong here?  
But I had a notion there was something to get  
Waiting for me in the far out west

I landed a job on an outback run  
Driving bush tracks, working in the sun  
The years slipped away the scars crept on my flesh  
And I wondered why I'd come to the far out west

Well I hit the road but I wasn't so strong  
I'd been away for too damn long  
But you took me in and gave me some rest  
And I told you that I'd come from the far out west

You said welcome back you can settle down now  
Give up your wandering this is your real home town  
I said thanks for your kindness but I really can't stay  
I don't recognise the scenery the landscape seems changed  
You said give it some time it'll come back for you yet  
I said I wish you could have come to the far out west

Well there's them that stay and them that gotta go  
Keep the light on the verandah in case I'm coming home  
If it be a dark night all rainy and wet  
You know I'm coming in from the far out west