

## ***Solid Rock***

(music – Shane Howard and Scott Darlow, lyrics – Shane Howard)

Out here nothing changes, not in a hurry anyway

You can feel the endlessness

With the coming of the light of day

We're talking bout a chosen place

You wanna sell it in the marketplace

Just a minute now

*Solid Rock, standing on sacred ground*

*Living on borrowed time*

*And the winds of change*

*Are blowing down the line*

Now down around the dawn of time the dreaming all began

A proud people came

They were looking for their promised land

Running from the heart of darkness

Looking for the heart of light

Must have been paradise

*Solid Rock, standing on sacred ground*

*Living on borrowed time*

*And the winds of change*

*Are blowing down the line*

Standing on the shore one day

Saw the white sails in the sun

Wasn't long before they felt that sting

White man white law white gun

Don't tell me that it's justified

Somewhere, someone lied

Someone lied

*Solid Rock, standing on sacred ground*

*Living on borrowed time*

*And the winds of change*

*Are blowing down the line*

## **Synopsis**

Shane Howard wrote this song and released it in 1982. According to Howard, the inspiration came on a ten-day camping trip to Uluru (also known as Ayers Rock) during 1980 where he had a "spiritual awakening" which brought "the fire in the belly" over injustices suffered by Australia's indigenous peoples.

**“I realised that this country that I grew up in, that I thought was my country, wasn't. I had to reassess my whole relationship with the land and the landscape, and understand that we had come from somewhere else, and we had dis-empowered a whole race of people when we arrived.” —Shane Howard.**

Shane Howard's record label WEA was at first reluctant to issue it as a single and even Howard initially had a few doubts about whether commercial radio was ready for such a weighty political subject. He insisted, however, on its release to make a statement on the European invasion of Australia.

*Solid Rock* peaked at No. #2 on the Australian Kent Music Report Singles Chart, remaining in the Top 50 for 26 weeks. It also reached No. #31 on the US *Billboard* Mainstream Rock Chart and appeared on the Hot 100. I have loved this song for many years. I think there are many reasons for that, but as an Aboriginal person, this song was the first song that mainstream Australia embraced, that was all about Aboriginal people and culture. It featured the didgeridoo, and gave us an enormous sense of pride. Only 15 years prior to this song, we weren't even recognised as Australian citizens, instead being told we were flora and fauna. It is monumental in Australian history, and not just musically.

- Scott Darlow