

# We Long to be Forgiven

## Brian Venten

Chorus:

We long to be forgiven by the Aborigines,  
Far the crimes that we've committed and the things that we have done.  
But we'll never know forgiveness and be reconciled as one,  
Until the Whiteman says, 'I'm sorry.'  
And the Blackman sets him free.

Verse 1.

I have a mate called Rony a near full blood from out west.  
Who told me some old stories of the things that we have done.  
The unrecorded history is easy to ignore,  
But I think we should say sorry so the wounds begin to heal.

Verse 2

We can look at other countries and say we're not like them.  
And extend our hand of friendship to the immigrant in need.  
But when we pushed some of your people off the cliffs at Fraser Range,  
We can hardly think were innocent and not say sorry too.

Verse 3

He told me 'bout a Blacky from out Macgumba way,  
How the cops forgot to check on him as in a "Boob" he lay.  
And when they opened up the cell and checked on him again,  
There he was a skeleton still tied to a ball and chain,

Verse 4

You were not indifferent to our plight of long ago,  
When our kids were born to convicts on the banks of Sydney Cove.  
You took them in and fed them as if they were your own,  
And when we should have thanked you we didn't give a damn.

Verse 5

Your tears of grief must linger for the child you could not raise,  
Or to see your sons addicted to grog and petrol fumes.  
It's hard to understand what the pain you mothers feel,  
Perhaps we should say sorry for the part that we have played?

Verse 6.

Its tragic what has happened since 1788  
And perhaps we all are victims of the things both said and done.  
They say a flag might help us if we all could just agree,  
But until we say we're sorry we'll never be set free.

Verse 7

The Southern Cross is sacred to your tribal past,  
It guided your old bushmen through the night to bring them home.  
The Cross can be a symbol and bring healing to our land,  
And to help us say we're sorry and let forgiveness have its way.