

A Gum Tree Canoe

Words and music collected by Frank Nickels 1957 from Mrs J Wilson from St Arnaud, Victoria.
It is an Australianised version of a minstrel song published in Boston in 1847 and written by S. S. Steele

Verse

C

I'll sing you a dit - - ty a sweet lit - - tle song,

G7 **Am**

It will just take a mo - ment it won't keep you long.

C

I'll sing of the days when our love was so new

F **G7** **C**

And we sailed down the Mur-ray Riv-er boys _____ In a gum tree can - oe.

Chorus

C **G7**

We rowed, we rowed o'er the wat - er so blue,

C **F** **G7** **C**

Like a feath er we would float a - long in a gum tree can - oe.

My hand on my banjo, my toe on my oar
I work all the day and I sing as I go
And at night I return to my Julia so true
And we sail down the Murray River boys
In a gum tree canoe.

I once left the river and went on the land
To set myself up as a cocky so grand
But the life didn't suit me it made my heart sore
So I went back to the Murray River boys
And my Julia once more.