

# John Gilbert (Bushranger)

*From AB Paterson's Old Bush Songs here set to the well-known 'Sing A Song of Sixpence' which incidentally was the recruiting song of the infamous pirate Blackbeard – offering sixpence a day.*

John Gilbert was a bush-ranger of terrible renown,  
For sticking lots of people up and shooting others down.  
John Gilbert said unto his pals, "Although they make a bob-bery  
About our tricks, we've never done a tip-top thing in robbery."

"We have all of us a fancy for experiments in pillage,  
Yet never have we seized a town, or even sacked a village."  
John Gilbert said unto his mates "Though partners we have been  
In all rascality, yet we no festal day have seen."

John Gilbert said he thought he saw no obstacle to hinder a  
Piratical descent upon the town of Canowindra.  
So to Canowindra town rode Gilbert and his men,  
And all the Canowindra folk subsided there and then.

The Canowindra populace cried "Here's a lot of strangers!"  
But immediately recovered when they found they were bushrangers.  
And Johnny Gilbert said to them, "You need not be afraid:  
We are only old companions with bushranging for a trade."

And Johnny Gilbert said, said he, "We'll never hurt a hair  
Of men who bravely recognize that we are just and fair."  
The New South Welshmen said at once, not making any fuss,  
That Johnny Gilbert, after all, was "Just but one of us."

So Johnny Gilbert took the town (including public houses),  
And treated all the "cockatoos" and shouted for their spouses.  
And Miss O'Flanagan performed in manner quite genteelly  
Upon the grand pianer for the bushranger O'Meally.

And every stranger passing by they took, and when they got him  
They robbed him of his money and occasionally shot him.  
And Johnny's enigmatic feat admits of this solution,  
That bushranging in New South Wales is a favoured institution.

So Johnny Gilbert ne'er allows an anxious thought to fetch him,  
For well he knows the Government don't really want to ketch him,  
And if such practices should be to New South Welshmen dear,  
With not the least demurring word ought we to interfere.