

# Old and Not So Old Bush Songs

## Speewaa

*From The Bulletin 1897 by M'G with a setting by David Johnson.*

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a G chord. The second staff ends with a G chord. The third staff ends with a D7 chord. The fourth staff ends with a G chord. The music is a rhythmic melody with a consistent eighth-note pattern.

The push are getting mighty stiff, they've swallered every drain;  
So jump from off my knee a jiff and fill old girl again.  
Ter-morrer mornin off we clear, this evenin, it's our shout;  
So give our cheques ter missus dear, and say we'll take em out.  
For we're off to the Speewaa in the Never Never Land  
Over the Cooper and beyond the belt of sand  
We're chock-a-block o' graftin' in the same old track  
So we'll make a break for Speewaa in the land Out Back.

The boss has whips of stuff about and miles and miles of land;  
He'd buy old Jimmy Tyson out and sell up Hungry Rand.  
He keeps the pound-a-hundred pay with all the chaps he's got,  
And leaves it ter themselves ter say if sheep are wet or not.  
So we're off to the Speewaa, where there's bunce to scoff,  
With pay at Union prices and the boss no flamin toff;  
No more thirty bob a week for twelve hours graft a day,  
We'll start at the Speewaa on the Union pay.

The huts are painted pinks and blues with mirrors on the walls,  
And servants hurry in with booze when any shearer calls.  
There's plate of icecream in the shed and on the hottest days  
Long shandies with a foamin head are handed round on trays.  
So we're off to the Speewaa, where the fun's alright,  
There's a grand pianer tootlin in the huts at night  
And a dandy girl to play it too with lovely golden hair;  
So we're off to the Speewaa where they treat yer fair.

So give's a kiss or two and wish us luck ahead;  
In six months we'll be safely through or else we'll both be dead.  
But we ain't goin ter feed no crow nor meet no sudden ends;  
And when we're back ye'll never know ye had such toffs for friends.  
So collar the billy and pick up the swag again,  
We're going to pad the same old hoof across the same old plain;  
But comin back! -just look at us a-drivin four-in-hand