

Australia's on the Wallaby

This song has been widely collected in Australia. Similarities with Henry Lawson's Freedom on the Wallaby invite questions.

Verse

Our fath - ers came in search of gold, The claim it proved a duf - fer;
The syn - dic - ates and banks went broke And so we had to suf - fer.
We're all for free - dom for our - selves, Our - selves and mates of to - il,
Aus - tra - lia's on the wal - lab - y and the bil - ly's on the boil.

Chorus

Aus - tral - ia's on the wal - lab - y Just list - en to the coo - ee;
The kang - ar - oo he rolls his swag and the em - u shoul - ders blu - ey.
The boom - er - angs are whizz - ing round, The ding - o scratch - es gra - vel,
The poss - um, bear and band - i - coot are all out on the tra - vel.

There's tiger-snakes and damper, boys,
And what's that on the coals?
There's droughts and floods and ragged duds
And dried-up waterholes.
On sun-scorched plains where shade is not
They're asking us to toil,
Australia's sons are weary and
The billy's on the boil.

The kooka calls the bats, and now
The pigeon and the shag,
The mallee-hen and platypus
Are rolling up their swag.
For the curlew sings a sad farewell
Beside a long lagoon
And the brolga does his last-way waltz
To the lyrebird's mocking tune.