

Black Billy Tea

Original words and tune by NZ folksinger, Joe Charles; with last two verses by David Johnson

Kick out the fire, boys, roll up your pack.
Don't forget the billy, boys, billy burnt and black
Black billy tea, boys, black as it can be. Black billy tea is the stuff for me.
Chorus
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Chorus
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Brew it in a billy, brew it in a pot,
Just throw in a handful, pour it while its hot.
Drink it from a cup, boys, drink it from a tin,
Turn the bottom up, boys and fill 'er up again.

Mouthorgan Jack and John "the Baptist" too
All the old tiem fellas, they knew how to brew.
Way down in a coal mine or driving on a drive
Black billy tea keeps a man alive.

Old Jack was in the bush pulling out a log,
When the chain slipped off it and it slid into a bog.
Jack took out his billy, made a cup of tea,
Got the outfit out again as easy as could be.

Working in the city where the traffic never ends
Shuffling bits of paper and pushing round a pen.
Tea trolley comes, your thirst is at an end.
Drink and close your eyes then you can pretend it's..

When you go out hiking or camping in the bush
To get a bit of exercise and find a bit of shoosh
Take along your tucker bag, take along your pack
Take along your billy boys, billy burnt and black.