

Cane Killed Abel

Words by seaman/folksinger Merv Lilley, with a tune by singer/songwriter Chris Kempster (1933–2004). Kempster's role in the Australian folk movement was a significant pioneering one – as a singer, songwriter, composer, collector and teacher.

Leader **D** **A7** **D**

I was a cane cutter but now I'm at sea.

Chorus **A7**

Stool it and top it and load it my boys.

Leader **D** **A7** **D**

Once Cane killed A - bel but it won't kill me.

Chorus **A7** **D**

Stool it and top it and load it my boys.

There was an old seaman who sang this refrain.
He stood at the bar and he filled up again.

I rise every morning about half past three.
To cook my own breakfast, my dinner and tea.

I worked very hard until I went to sea.
Once Cane killed Abel but it won't kill me.

This cutting of cane, it isn't much fun.
They melt it all down and make Bundaberg rum.

I was a cane cutter but now I'm at sea.
Once Cane killed Abel but it won't kill me.