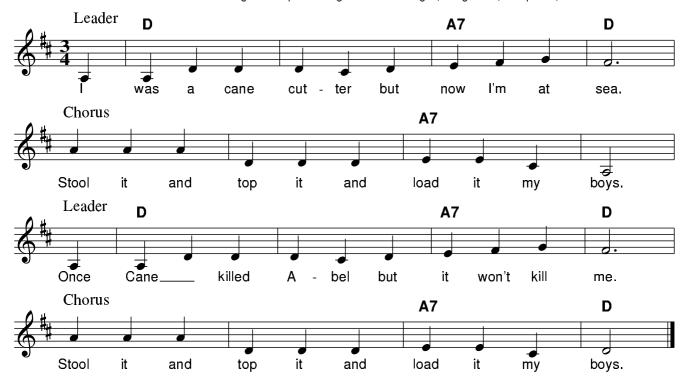
Cane Killed Abel

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.



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.