

The Ramble-er

Collected by AB Paterson c 1905. The Rambleers was a bush band that formed about 1957 after The Bushwhackers disbanded, including Harry Kay, Alex Hood and Chris Kempster performing similar material. This tune by David Johnson (2005).

Verses 1 & 2

1. The earth rolls on through empty space, its journey's never done,
 It's entered for a starry race through-out to Kingdom Come.
 And, as I am a bit of earth, I follow it because - -
 And prove I am a rolling stone that never gathers moss.

Chorus

For I'm a ramble-er, a roll-ick-ing ramble-er.
 I'm a roving rake of poverty and a son of a gun for beer.

Verses 3 & 4

3. I've done a bit of driving of cattle and of sheep,
 I've done a bit of moving with Matilda for a mate
 Of fencing I have done my share wool scouring on the green;
 Axe-man, navy Old Nick can bear me out in what I haven't been.

2. I've done a bit of fossicking for tucker and for gold;
I've been a menial rouseabout and a rollocking shearer bold.
I've shanked across the Old Man Plain after busting up a cheque,
And whipped the cat once more again, though I haven't met it yet.

4. I've worked the treadmill thresher, the scythe and reaping hook,
Been wood and water fetcher for Mary Jane the cook:
I've done a few cronk things too, when I have struck a town,
There's few things I wouldn't do – but I never did lambing-down.