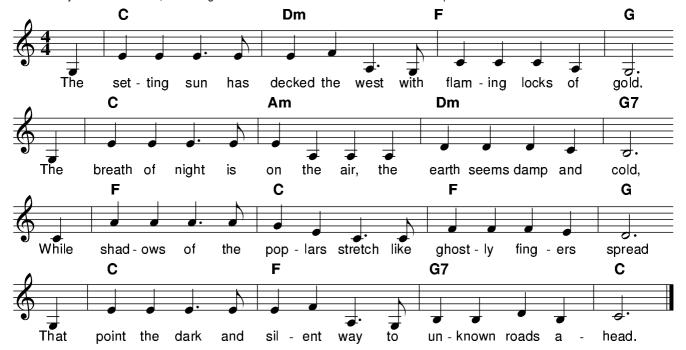
The Troop Train Leaves

Original words Jim Grahame (Jim Gordon), a life-long friend of Henry Lawson. The tune was written by musical duo Tony & Helen Romeo, both long term members of the Bush Music Club and performers with Southern Cross Bush Band.



The engine spurting mists of steam with furnace fires aglow Belching smoke in drifting spheres like rain clouds hanging low, While milling crowds move back and forth, departure won't be long For soldiers clad in battledress who mingle with the throng.

As "All Aboard!" is called aloud, "Make way please! Stand aside!" Shy lovers whisper last good-byes beside a weeping bride, And there are many friendless ones whose feelings are obscure While metal pointers of the clock turn slow but deadly sure.

But there are two beyond the throng who are the last to part. She helps him with his heavy gear – 'tis lighter than her heart Yet there's a smile upon her lips, held high is her grey head. There is no falter in her voice and not a tear is shed.

She jokes with him, and laughs with him, (he must not see her grieve). She's worn the mask of gaiety, these last days of his leave And as the train pulls slowly out, hands wave and wave and wave Then stiff of lip she turns away – the bravest of the brave.

Those watching thought her unconcerned, some thought that she was hard As firm of step and straight of form she leaves the station yard But on her dark and lonely way, gone is the smile that lied Her head is bowed, her cheek is wet, the mask is cast aside.