

## Widgegoara Joe

Collected from Jack Lee, Auburn NSW by Russell Ward and John Meredith. Duke Tritton had a version called Tooraweenah Joe. The Jack Deeming referred to in the last line was an infamous murderer who was caught, tried and hanged in 1892.



I'm on - ly a back-blocks shear er, as eas - i - ly can be seen,  
I've shorn in al - most every shed on the plains of the Riv - er - ine,  
I've shorn in most of the fam - ous sheds, I've seen big tal - lies done,  
But some-how or oth - er, I don't know why, I nev - er be - came a gun.

### Chorus:

Hurrah, my boys, my shears are set, I feel both fit and well,  
Tomorrow you'll find me at my pen when the gaffer rings the bell,  
With Hayden's patent thumb-guards fixed, and both my blades pulled back,  
Tomorrow I'll go with my sliding blow for a century or the sack.

I've opened down the windpipe straight, I've opened behind the ear,  
I've shorn in every possible style in which a man can shear,  
I've studied all the cuts -and drives of the famous men I've met,  
But I've never succeeded in plastering up those three little figures yet.

When the Boss walked down the board this morning, he stopped and stared at me,  
For I'd mastered Moran's Great Shoulder Cut, as he could plainly see,  
But I've another surprise for him, that'll give his nerves a shock,  
Tomorrow I'll show him I have mastered Pierce's Rang-tang Block.

And if I succeed, as I hope to do, next year I intend to shear  
At the Wagga Demonstration, that's held there every year,  
And there I'll lower the colours, the colours of Mitchell and Co.,  
Instead of Deeming, you will hear of Widgegoweera Joe!