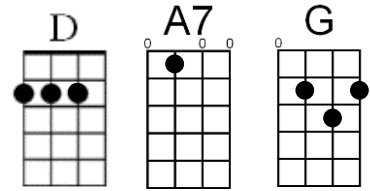


The Old Bullock Dray

First published in 1887

4/4 time Strum duDu duDu

Intro: [D (duDu duDu)] [D (duDu D/)]



Verse 1. Oh! the [D] shearing is all over and the wool is coming down
I mean to get a wife, my boys, when [A7] I go up to town,
Every [D] thing has got a mate that presents itself to [G] view,
From the [D] little paddy-melon to the [A7] boxing kanga[D]roo

Verse 2. Oh! I've [D] saved up a good cheque and I mean to buy a team,
And when I get a missus, boys, [A7] I'll be all serene,
For, in [D] calling at the Factory they say there's no [G] delay,
To [D] pick an offsider for the [A7] old bullock [D] dray.

CHORUS So, it's [D] roll up your blankets and let's make a push,
I'll take you up the country and I'll [A7] show you the bush.
I'll be [D] bound you won't get such a chance another [G] day,
So [D] come and take possession of the [A7] old bullock [D] dray.

Verse 3. Oh! We'll [D] live like fighting cocks, boys, for good living I'm your man
We'll have leather jackets, Johnny cakes and [A7] fritters in the pan
Or, if you [D] want some fish, why I'll catch you some real [G] soon
Or, we'll [D] boat for barramundi by the [A7] banks of a la[D]goon

Verse 4. Oh, yes, [D] of beef and damper I'll take care we'll have enough,
We'll boil in the bucket such a [A7] whopper of a duff,
And our [D] friends will come and dance, in the honour of the [G] day,
To the [D] music of the bells around the [A7] old bullock [D] dray.

CHORUS So, it's [D] roll up your blankets and let's make a push,
I'll take you up the country and I'll [A7] show you the bush.
I'll be [D] bound you won't get such a chance another [G] day,
So [D] come and take possession of the [A7] old bullock [D] dray.

Verse 5. Oh, we'll [D] have plenty girls, yes, you must mind that,
There'll be flash little Maggie, and [A7] Buck-jumping Pat,
There'll be [D] Stringy-Bark Joe, and Greenhide [G] Mike,
Oh Yes, [D] my colonials, just as [A7] many as you [D] like.

Verse 6. Now we'll [D] stop all immigration, we won't need it any more,
We'll be having young colonials, [A7] twins by the score,
And I [D] wonder what the devil Jack Robertson would [G] say,
If he [D] saw us promenading round the [A7] old bullock [D] dray.

CHORUS So, it's [D] roll up your blankets and let's make a push,
I'll take you up the country and I'll [A7] show you the bush.
I'll be [D] bound you won't get such a chance another [G] day,
So [D] come and take possession of the [A7] old bullock [D] dray.

Outro Yes [D] come and take possession of the [A7] old bullock [D] dray. Hey!

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Introduction for The Old Bullock Dray

Female Factory. Between 1788 and 1868 approximately 160,000 convicts were sent to Australia. Of these, about 25,000 were women. It is estimated that 1 in 7 Australians are descended from convict women.

On arrival, convict women were imprisoned in Female Factories for security and work. Women received training in various crafts and trades and, in addition, it served as a “marriage bureau” and a place of secondary punishment.

There were a total of 13 Factories, located in NSW, QLD and Tasmania.

The Factory at Parramatta was the model for all the others and predates all of them. Some buildings a Parramatta still visible.

At Parramatta, there were up to 2000 women in the Factory, surrounded by 8 ft high stone Wall. The women were divided into three classes; 1st Class being ‘awaiting assignment’, 2nd Class there due to minor misdemeanours and 3rd Class there for committing crimes.

1st class females available for marriage. Three meetings under supervision of the Matron. A magistrate had to give permission for the union and the couple would be married by Rev Sammual Marsden at St John’s Church Parramatta.

Offsider. For a bullock wagon, the driver leads the bullocks by marching beside them on the ‘near’ side (gutter side). If he has an assistant, the assistant walks on the Offside, hence the term ‘offsider’.

Jack Robertson (Sir John Robertson) was a politician advocating populating Australia by Australians, not allowing migrants. Still a popular concept today.

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