

# Introduction for The Old Bullock Dray

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**Parramatta 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 of the buildings at Parramatta are still visible in the ‘Heritage Precinct’.

At Parramatta, there were up to 2,000 women in the Factory, surrounded by an 8 ft high stone wall.

The women were divided into three classes; 1<sup>st</sup> Class being ‘awaiting assignment’, 2<sup>nd</sup> Class there due to minor misdemeanours and 3<sup>rd</sup> Class there as a result of committing crimes.

1st class females were available for marriage. The process was that three meetings were organised, under supervision of the Matron, and if the parties were both in agreement, a marriage was organised. A magistrate had to give permission for the union and the couple would be married. In Parramatta, the service was conducted by the Rev. Sammual Marsden at St John’s Church, Parramatta. Following the marriage, the wife was released from the Factory to join her husband.

**Offsider.** In the song, there is mention of “Calling at the Factory, they say there's no delay, to pick an offsider for the old bullock dray.”

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’, i.e He/She is my offsider. This is where the term comes from.

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

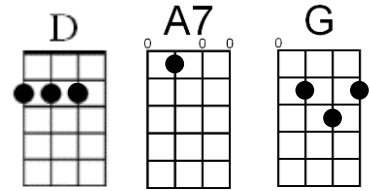
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# The Old Bullock Dray

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!