

## Waltzing Matilda

Once a jolly swagman camped by a billabong  
Under the shade of a collibah tree,  
And he sang as he watched and waited till his  
billy boiled,  
'You'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me.'

Waltzing Matilda, waltzing Matilda  
You'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me.'  
And he sang as he watched and waited till his  
billy boiled,  
'You'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me.'

Down came a jumbuck to drink at the billabong,  
Up jumped the swagman and grabbed him with  
glee.  
And he sang as he shoved that jumbuck in his  
tucker bag,  
'You'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me.'

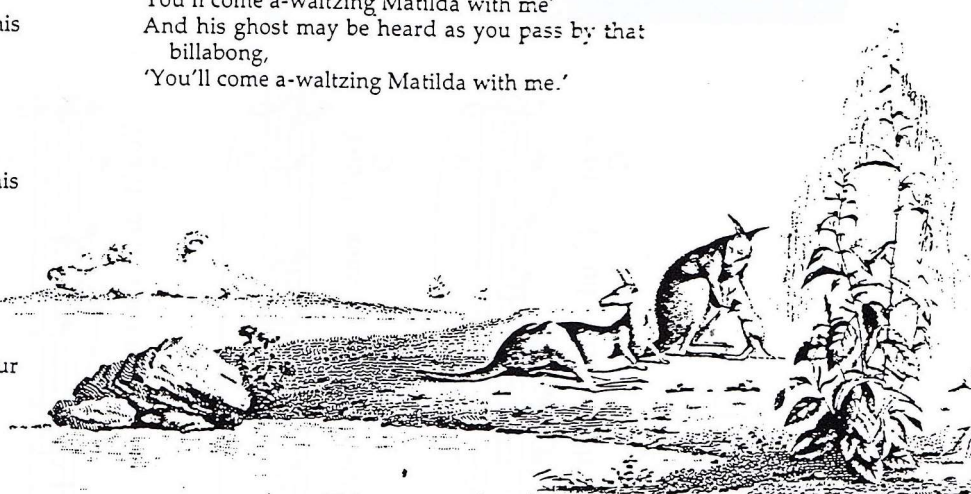
Waltzing Matilda, waltzing Matilda  
You'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me.'  
And he sang as he shoved that jumbuck in his  
tucker bag,  
'You'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me.'

Up rode the squatter mounted on his  
thoroughbred,  
Up rode the troopers—one-two-three.  
'Where's that jolly jumbuck you've got in your  
tucker bag?  
You'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me.'

Waltzing Matilda, waltzing Matilda  
You'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me.  
Where's that jolly jumbuck you've got in your  
tucker bag?  
You'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me.'

Up jumped the swagman and sprang into the  
billabong,  
'You'll never catch me alive', said he.  
And his ghost may be heard as you pass by that  
billabong,  
'You'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me.'

Waltzing Matilda, waltzing Matilda  
You'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me'  
And his ghost may be heard as you pass by that  
billabong,  
'You'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me.'



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'Waltzing Matilda' is Australia's best known folksong. It is sung all over the world. It was written down in Queensland, a state in Australia, in 1895. In Australia there are very big sheep farms which were patrolled by soldiers or troopers. The farmer, called a 'squatter', controlled the land. He employed migrant workers or 'swagmen' to work for him. 'Swagmen' worked seasonally and then went off to look for other jobs.

'Waltzing Matilda' tells the story of a swagman who camped by a pool (a billabong) one night and killed a sheep (a jumbuck). He was going to cook it but he was discovered by the troopers and the squatter. He didn't want to be arrested so he

jumped into the billabong and drowned. It's a sad song but its melody is very lively. A matilda is a blanket for sleeping in – rolled up. So 'waltzing matilda' means dancing and using your sleeping blanket as a partner.

### Words and expressions

swagman	seasonal migrant worker
billabong	a stream with dead water in it.
collibah tree	'bill' = river and 'bong' = dead
Waltzing Matilda	a type of tree
	dancing with a matilda (a rolled-up blanket)
billy	a can for boiling water in
jumbuck	a sheep
glee	joy
shoved	pushed
tucker-bag	a bag for putting food in
squatter	owner of a sheep farm
thoroughbred	a fine horse
mounted on	riding
sprang	jumped

