

The Wild Colonial Boy¹

Traditional, with new verses and words, by Llewellyn Toulmin, 2002

1. There was a wild colonial boy
Jack Duggin was his name
He was born and bred in Ireland
At a place called Castlemaine
He was his father's only son
His mother's pride and joy
And dearly did his parents love
Their wild colonial boy.

2. Thirsty, Jack rode into town
Just for to have a beer
But a penny coin he did not have
He also had no fear
He stole the penny from a judge
And Justice did annoy
He was sent away to Botany Bay
That wild colonial boy

3. So at the age of eighteen years
He was forced to leave his home
And to Australia's sunny shores
He sailed across the foam.
They put him in an iron gang
In the government employ
But iron cold could never hold
That wild colonial boy.

4. Jack escaped that chain gang
"I'll rob the rich," he said
In a rage he robbed the stage
A bandit's life he led
He hated unfair judges so
He robbed Judge McEvoy
Who trembling cold, gave up his gold to
The wild colonial boy

5. He bade the judge "Good morning"
And he told him to beware,
"I'd never rob a needy man
Or one who acted square
But a judge who'd rob a mother
Of her one and only joy
Would be a worse out-law than
This wild colonial boy"

6. For six long years this darling youth

Went on his wild career
Of bench and bar he knew no dread
His spirit it knew no fear
He robbed the wealthy squires and
Their stock he did destroy
A terror to Australia was
The wild colonial boy

7. One morning on the prairie
As Jack he rode along
Listenin' to the mocking bird
Singing a mournful song
Up rode a band of troopers
Kelly, Davis and Fitzroy
They'd all set out to capture him
The wild colonial boy.

8. "Surrender now, Jack Duggin
For you see it's three to one
Surrender in the Queen's own name
You are a plunderin' son."
Jack drew two pistols from his belt
And proudly waved them high
"I'll fight but not surrender!" said
The wild colonial boy.

9. Jack fired a shot at Kelly
And he brought him to the ground
He fired point blank at Davis, too
Who fell dead at the sound
But a bullet pierced Jack's proud young
heart, From the pistol of Fitzroy
And that was how they captured him
The wild colonial boy

10. Yes, there was a wild colonial boy
Jack Duggin was his name
He came to us from Ireland
As prince of rogues he reigned
He robbed the rich to help the poor
The people wished him joy
And long will we remember him
Our wild colonial boy.

¹ Based on the true story of Jack Donohue, 1806-1830, who was transported to Australia in 1824. He escaped near Sydney and waged guerrilla war against the authorities for 6 years until ambushed by police.