

MUSIC ROOM book 5 (middle primary)

Unit 4: Music All Around Us - Song & Dance

Lesson 3:

Song & Dance From Different Times: Colonial Australia

The Old Bark Hut glossary

Swag – blanket rolled around possessions
swagman _ - itinerant worker
well-to-do - prosperous
all stumped up _ - out of luck
rations – small portions of food
*old bark hut*__ - simple temporary shelter using bark
ten pounds of flour – 5 kilos
ten pounds of beef – 5 kilos
tay _ - tea
seventh day – end of the week_
_mighty flash _ - cheeky
billy – tin for boiling water (for tea)
pint-pot – tin mug
vermin __ - rats, mice, cockroaches, fleas etc.

Folk music from Colonial Australia

Folk songs described the everyday life of the common people (the 'folk'). Songs & music from the Colonial days of Australian history (late 1700's to mid 1800's) were accompanied by, and performed on, whatever instruments were available or had come with settlers from overseas. The most common was the button accordeon. Harmonicas (mouth organs), fiddles and tin whistles were also around.

Home-made percussion instruments such as spoons and bones (a pair of bullock bones) were sometimes used, as were, sometimes, the 'singing saw' and washboard.

Bush band

The songs and dances from the era enjoyed their first popular revival in the early 1950's with the *Original Bushwhackers & Bullockies Bush Band* (http://www.bushmusic.org.au/JM_Tribute.html) who added some home-made percussion – the *Lagerphone* (<http://www.apex.net.au/~keiths/lagerphones.html>), made from a broom handle and bottle tops, and the *Bush Bass*, made from a tea chest, broom handle and string.

Life in the bush - teacher background

A *swag* was a blanket, rolled around a few meager possessions and slung across the back. Swagmen tramped the countryside (the *outback*) in search of work on farms and sheep stations. Simple, temporary shelter could be erected, using bark – a technique learned from the Aborigines.