

## Tune of the Month: Gum Tree Canoe

Here is a cute little ditty that you will enjoy. There are two versions on YouTube by John Hartford, Gumtree Canoe - John Hartford <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dkVAK60lqzQ> and/or John Hartford - Learning To Smile -10 Gum Tree Canoe <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOA86MeCrr0&feature=related>

### Gum Tree Canoe



I'll sing you a dit - ty a sweet lit - tle song, It will take just a mo - ment, it won't keep you  
long; I will sing of the days when our love was so new, And we sailed down the Mur - ray ri - ver boys, \_  
\_ In a gum - tree ca - noe. We rowed, we rowed, o'er the wa - ter so blue, Like a  
fea - ther \_ we would float a - long \_ \_ \_ In a gum - tree ca - noe. \_ \_ \_

*Here are some Australian lyrics for Gumtree Canoe:*

I'll sing you a ditty a sweet little song  
It will just take a moment it wont keep you long I  
will sing of the days when our love was so new  
And we sailed down the Murray River boys

In a gum tree canoe

Chorus

We rowed we rowed o'er the water so blue Like  
a feather we would float along

In a gum tree canoe

My hand on my banjo my toe in my oar

I work all the day and I sing as I go

At night time I turn to my Julia so true

And we sail down Murray River boys

In a gum tree canoe

I once left the river and went on the land

To set myself up as a cocky so grand

But the life didn't suit me it made my heart sore

So I went to the Murray River boys

And my Julia so true

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The song was sent to Frank Nicholls of the Billabong Band in WeMelbourne in 1957. Frank Nicholls wrote "It was sent to us by Mrs J. Wilson, who we met at one of our functions. The song was remembered by members of her family who learned it from Freddie Bolton".

The Folk Lore Society of Victoria collected another version from Max Dyer of Benambra. Warren Fahey recorded Jim Cargill singing a version which is on Larikin record Bush Traditions .

This song from Simon McDonald. MG