

# Henry Lawson (the poet in song) Vol.2

## *The Queensland Tiger*

A century has passed since the death of Australia's greatest poet, Henry Lawson, and *The Queensland Tiger's* second album in his Lawson trilogy marks that anniversary. Accompanied by various talented musicians, this album creates a soundscape that brings 10 of Lawson's best poems to life.

These were written between 1892 and 1898, and depict a more hopeful and positive side of Lawson's character than his later years. (Vol. 3 in this series). Lawson's keen observations, his wit and humour are seen throughout these poems, which translate wonderfully to songs.

Most of them were published in "[The Bulletin](#)" during the 1890s. It was the founder of this magazine, [J.F. Archibald](#), who sent Lawson to [Bourke](#) with 5 pounds and a one-way train ticket in 1892. Lawson would end up trekking between Hungerford and [Bourke](#), enduring the harsh conditions of the Australian Bush, and witnessing the toll it took on ordinary people. This became the foundation of much of his later work. Lawson's realistic perspective was in sharp contrast to his fellow contemporary [Banjo Paterson](#), who wrote from a romantic viewpoint.

In 1893, Lawson travelled to New Zealand, where he worked for a time. Back in Sydney in 1896, he met and married [Bertha Bredt](#). The couple took a trip to West Australia in search of gold, but then returned to Sydney, where Lawson joined a social drinking club, called the Dawn and Dusk Club. To draw him away from such activities, wife Bertha arranged for another trip to New Zealand, where Lawson taught for a while at a Māori school. But by 1898, Henry and Bertha had returned to Sydney, with a new baby (Jim), with plans to go to England.

Lawson is a moving poet: he can stir deep emotions, be they personal or political, humorous or romantic. Lawson's ability to describe a situation or a subject in just a few words has given us a series of portraits that no artist with a pencil or paintbrush could have surpassed. Here are some examples from each of the 10 tracks:

### **The Captain of the Push**

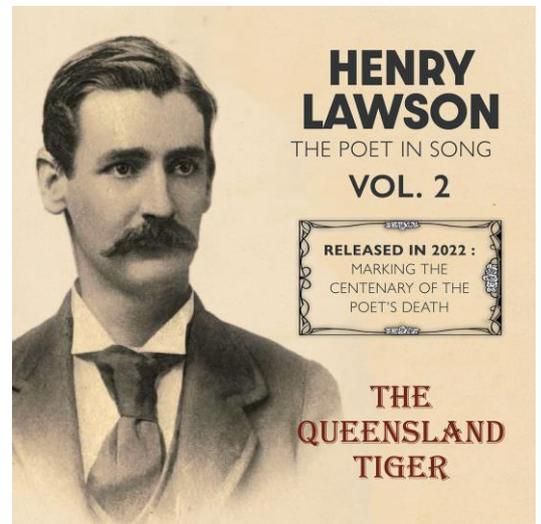
*Let us first describe the captain,  
bottle-shouldered, pale, and thin,  
For he was the beau-ideal  
of a Sydney larrikin.*

### **A Prouder Man than You**

*If your character be blameless,  
if your outward past be clean,  
While 'tis known my antecedents  
are not what they should have been  
Do not risk contamination,  
save your name whate'er you do —  
'Birds o' feather fly together':  
I'm a prouder bird than you!*

### **The Old Rebel Flag in the Rear**

*"Whenever the march of oppression  
Reduces a land to despair,  
No matter how mighty the victors,  
The flag of Rebellion is there."*



### **Saint Peter**

*He was 'union' when the workers  
First began to organise,  
And — I'm glad that old St. Peter  
Keeps the gate of Paradise.*

### **Sweeney**

*Very old and thin and dirty  
were the garments that he wore,  
Just a shirt and pair of trousers,  
and a boot, and nothing more.*

### **The Emigration to New Zealand**

*"I'd like to see his face again,  
I'd like to grip his hand,  
He says he's sure that I'll get on  
first-rate in Maoriland."*

The tunes for these songs were mostly written by Australians, such as *Chris Kempster*, *Mike Jackson*, *Garth Porter*, and *Slim Dusty*, but there is also one by the late *Phil Garland* (NZ) and two by *Gerry Hallom* (UK) : both men spent significant time in Australia.

The accompanists were carefully chosen for each track : *Jessie Morgan* (violin and backing vocals), *Natasha Jaffe* (cello), *Mikhail Bugaev* (violin and viola), *Paul Johnson* (flute) , and *Lillian Penner* (flute, violin and cello)

Several of the songs are quite long. (e.g., *Sweeney* is over 13 minutes). This is because The Queensland Tiger stays true to the original by trying to sing the entire poem.

Although this is the second album in his Henry Lawson trilogy, Volume 3 came out first, so the final album in this trilogy will be Volume 1, due out in a year or two.

### Follow The Queensland Tiger :

- Stream :** <https://gyro.to/HenryLawsonthepoetinsongVol2>
- Website :** <https://thequeenslandtiger.com>
- Facebook :** <https://www.facebook.com/thequeenslandtiger.at.gmail>
- SoundCloud :** <https://soundcloud.com/queensland-tiger>
- YouTube :** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfB5WnVjXU8uM1kBzwPZZ6w>
- Bandcamp :** [thequeenslandtiger.bandcamp.com](http://thequeenslandtiger.bandcamp.com)
- Email :** [thequeenslandtiger@gmail.com](mailto:thequeenslandtiger@gmail.com)

### The Outside Track

*The port-lights glowed in the morning mist  
That rolled from the waters green;  
And over the railing we grasped his fist  
As the dark tide came between.*

### Reedy River

*I cleared the land and fenced it  
And ploughed the rich red loam,  
And my first crop was golden  
When I brought Mary home.*

### The Lights of Cobb and Co.

*We take a bright girl actress  
through western dust and damps,  
To bear the home-world message,  
and sing for sinful camps,  
To wake the hearts and break them,  
wild hearts that hope and ache —  
( Ah ! when she thinks of those days  
her own must nearly break ! )*

### Knocking Around

*Weary old wife, with the bucket and cow,  
'How's your son Jack ? and where is he now ?'*

30 sec. samples



[LINKTREE](#)

## TRACK LIST

- =====
1. [The Captain of the Push](#) (1892) tune by Richard Williams, cello & flute by Lillian Penner 9.42
  2. [A Prouder Man than You](#) (1892) tune by Mike Jackson, flute by Paul Johnson , cello by Natasha Jaffe 2.56
  3. [The Old Rebel Flag in the Rear](#) (1892) tune by Chris Kempster, violin by Jessie Morgan 9.27
  4. [Saint Peter](#) (1893) tune by Peter Duggan, violin by Jessie Morgan, cello by Natasha Jaffe 2.36
  5. [Sweeney](#) (1893) tune by Slim Dusty, violin by Jessie Morgan 13.18
  6. [The Emigration to New Zealand](#) (1893) tune by Phil Garland, cello by Natasha Jaffe 5.21
  7. [The Outside Track](#) (1896) tune by Gerry Hallom, viola by Mikhail Bugaev , cello by Natasha Jaffe 7.05
  8. [Reedy River](#) (1896) tune by Chris Kempster, violin by Mikhail Bugaev 5.55
  9. [The Lights of Cobb and Co.](#) (1897) tune & arrangement by Gerry Hallom,  
violin & backing vocals by Jessie Morgan, cello by Natasha Jaffe 10.34
  10. [Knocking Around](#) (1898) tune by Garth Porter, violin by Lillian Penner 5.12