

Tumba-bloody-rumba

Lyrics: John Wolfe

Tune: *Jack of All Trades*, (British) adapted by Warren Fahey
Setting as in Warren Fahey, *Eureka, The Songs That Made Australia*, Omnibus Press, 1984

Verse 1



He asked for work at must - er time we tried him as a rid - er — we

6



tried him as a rouse - a - bout and as the cook's off - sid - er. — He

10



said he'd sailed the sev - en seas and worked up in A - lask - a — He'd

14



Chorus
been in eve - ry west - ern state from Tex - as to Neb - rask - a. — He

18



said he'd shorn a sheep or two and cut a bit of lumb - er, — and

22



waged war on the kang - a - roo in Tumb - a - blood - y - rumb - a.

Tumba-bloody-rumba

John Wolfe

1. He asked for work at muster time we tried him as a rider
We tried him as a rouse-a-bout and as the cook's off-sider.
He said he'd sailed the seven seas and worked up in Alaska
He'd been in every western state from Texas to Nebraska.

*Chorus: He said he'd shorn a sheep or two and cut a bit of lumber,
And waged war on the kangaroo in Tumba-bloody-rumba.*

2. We had him in the shearing shed, we put him on the stacker,
We tried him digging rabbits out; he wasn't worth a cracker.
He had a shop in Singapore, he owned a pearling lugger,
He was a champ at Baccarat, Australian rules and rugger.

Chorus:

3. He never showed his aptitude on work he was allotted,
But showed his skill upon the booze and cigarettes he botted.
He said he'd climbed the Matterhorn, he'd been a union leader
And years ago in Adelaide he was a pigeon breeder.

Chorus:

4. We had him cutting fencing posts, we tried to find his caper,
Until that happy payday when he got his bit of paper.
I wonder what he's doing now? Perhaps back on the lumber
Or shooting kanga-bloody-roos in Tumba-bloody-rumba.
*Perhaps he's shearing another sheep or cutting up some lumber,
Or shooting kanga-bloody-roos in Tumba-bloody-rumba.*

Source:

Warren Fahey,
Eureka, Songs that Made Australia,
Omnibus Press, Sydney, 1984

John Wolfe,
Bush Melodies,
Green River Books, Mallacoota, 1992
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In Fahey's version, slight adjustments to the lyrics have been made for singing purposes.