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John Williamson "The Drover's Boy"

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They couldn't understand why the drover cried As they buried the drover's boy The drover had always seemed so hard To the men in his employ

A bolting horse, the stirrup lost And the drover's boy was dead. A shovel of dirt, a mumbled word And it's back to the road ahead And forget about the drover's boy.

And they couldn't understand why the drover cut A lock of the dead boy's hair And put it in the band of his battered old hat As they watched him standing there

And he told them, "Take the cattle on I'll sit with the boy a while." A silent thought, a pipe to smoke And it's ride another mile And forget about the drover's boy, Forget about the drover's boy.

And they couldn't make out why the drover and the boy Was camped so faraway For the tall white man and the slim black boy Never had much to say

And the boy would be gone at the break of dawn Tail the horses, carry on While the drover roused the sleeping men Daylight, hit the road again And follow the drover's boy Follow the drover's boy

In the Camowheel pub they talked about The death of the drover's boy They drank their rum with the stranger Who'd come from the Kimberley Run Fitzroy

And he told of the massacre in the west,

Barest details, guess the rest, Shoot the bucks, grab a gin, cut her hair Break her in, call her a boy, the drover's boy Call her a boy, the drover's boy.

So when they build that stockman's hall of fame And they talk about the droving game Remember the girl who was bed mate and died, Rode with the drover, side by side, Watched the bullocks, flayed the hide Faithful wife but never a bride, Bred his sons for the cattle run, Don't weep for the drover's boy, Don't mourn for the drover's boy – But don't forget the drover's boy.

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