

The Transports' Shanty

From "The Transports" a ballad opera written in 1973 by Peter Bellamy about transport of the first convicts from England to Australia.

Sweet ladies of Plymouth we're saying "Goodbye",
Ro-o-oll down.

But we'll rock you and roll you again bye and bye,
Walk around m' brave boys and roll down.

Chorus

*We will Ro-o-oll down,
Walk around m' brave boys and roll down.*

Our anchor's a-weigh and the sails are unfurled,
And we're bound for to take her half way round the world,

In the wide Bay of Biscay the seas will run high,
And those poor seasick Transports will wish they could die.

When the Cape of Good Hope it is rounded at last,
The poor homesick Transports will long for the past.

And when we arrive off Australia's strand,
The poor weary Transports will long for the land.

And when we set sail for old England's shore,
Those poor stranded Transports we'll see then no more.

Then sweet ladies of Plymouth we'll pay all your rent,
And go roving no more 'til our money's all spent.