Fol a Rol a Roo

Words and tune by Dave de Hugard based on a fragment from shearer Hector McLeod of Orbost, Victoria. This was sent to Sun–News Pictorial journalist C S Waight when he put out a request in his column for "old songs" on behalf of Dr Percy Jones.



At the board we're ready boys to make a decent show. We're Jingle Jangle Jingle boys and you should see us go. First away the belly wool then round the crutch and hocks, The Rousies they're all ready boys to sweep away the locks.

China's chasing Charlie, Jack is chasing Bob, Bill is takin' it easy, but doin' a decent job. The board is fairly humming, the blades are opened wide. There's Tommy Burns already turned and on the whipping side.

Hi-diddle-doo! I'm comin' after you.
I'm at yer back Jack, Fol-a-rol-a-roo!
Sheep are rattlin' down the shutes. Sheep come from the pen.
You wipe your brow and grab a sheep and off you go again.

Until the final bell boys, that's the way we go. At times close together boys, a'shearin' blow for blow. China's chasin' Charlie or Jack is drawin' near, An' they go like hell until the bell, an' then they'll have a beer.

And when this shed is over, it's time to have some fun, Then out along the track boys to find another run. We'll camp beside the creek, boys, or in the river bend, And when it's time to start to shear, it's off we go again!