

South Australia

1. In South Australia I was born
Heave away! Haul away!
 South Australia round Cape Horn
and we're bound for South Australia.

Haul away you rolling king
Heave away! Haul away!
All the way you'll hear me sing
We're bound for South Australia.

2. As I walked out one morning fair
Heave away! Haul away!
 It's there I met Miss Nancy Blair
and we're bound for South Australia

3. I shook her up I shook her down
Heave away! Haul away!
 I shook her round and round the town
and we're bound for South Australia

4. There's but one thing grieves my mind
Heave away! Haul away!
 It's leaving Nancy Blair behind
and we're bound for South Australia

5. I wish I was on Australia's strand
Heave away! Haul away!
 A bottle of whisky in me hand.
and we're bound for South Australia

6. As we wallop around Cape Horn
Heave away! Haul away!
 You'll wish to Christ you'd never been born
and we're bound for South Australia

This is the version most sung at clubs and festival,
 by singers such as [Graeme Knights](#).



The [clipper route](#) followed by ships between England and Australia or New Zealand.

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Notes:

An **Outward Bound** shanty, usually sung at **capstan** (anchor) and **pumps** when preparing to leave port.

Alternative Titles: Rolling King, Ruler King, South Australia

[Wikipedia.org](#) says:

This song was first noted by sea music author **L.A. Smith**, who collected it "from a coloured seaman at the [Sailors] 'Home'" in London, and published it in her 1888 collection, *The Music of the Waters*.

Hugill, Stan, 1994, *Shanties from the Seven Seas*:

At the pumps the chorus "heave away! Haul away!" would not be out of place, as some would be "heaving away" at the pump handles and others "hauling away" at the bellropes [attached to the pump wheel].

Normally the words "heave" and "haul" are not mixed in shanties, the former [heave] being found only in capstan songs, the latter [haul] in halyard shanties.

Alternative version - The Codfish Shanty

This variation on South Australia known as the Codfish Shanty for obvious reasons. Another **Outward Bound** shanty, it was sung at capstan or pumps. But the tune is different.

1. Down-east gals ain't got no combs
Heave away! Heave away!
 They comb their hair with a whale-fish bone
And we're bound for South Australia

Haul away me bully boys
Heave away! Heave away!
Heave away why don't you make some noise?
And we're bound for South Australia.
2. Yankee gals don't sleep on beds
Heave away! Heave away!
 They go to sleep on cod-fish heads.
And we're bound for South Australia
3. Cape Cod gals have got big feet
Heave away! Heave away!
 Codfish rows is nice and sweet.
And we're bound for South Australia

Hugill gives three tunes, all different from this one, and two sets of words: one lamenting leaving his wife and child behind, and the other a version of the Codfish Shanty: "Down-east gals ain't got no comb, They comb their hair wi' a whale-fish bone".

The [Shanty.org.uk](#) web site says Nancy Blair and walloping round Cape Horn "seem to have been unknown until recordings by A.L. Lloyd and the Clancys popularised the shanty in the 1960s. By 1981 Hugill himself was also singing the "new" verses and tune.

Notes on the words

Rolling king - unknown meaning

South Australia - main city Adelaide, founded in 1830's on the principals of family migration, religious equality, and free markets in land and labour. Emigration started in 1836, gold was found in 1851. South Australia did not have any penal colonies.

4. Quaker gals don't wear no frills
Heave away! Heave away!
 They're tight and skinny as a halibut's gills.
And we're bound for South Australia
 5. Glou'ster gals make damn fine cooks
Heave away! Heave away!
 They're good at catching sprats on hooks.
And we're bound for South Australia
 6. Nantucket gals are very fine
Heave away! Heave away!
 They know how to bait a codfish line.
And we're bound for South Australia
- American collections have:
3. Cape Cod gals are very fine girls
Heave away! Heave away!
 Codfish rows is nice and sweet.
And we're bound for South Australia
 5. Glou'ster boys they have no sleds
Heave away! Heave away!
 They slide down hills on codfish heads.
And we're bound for South Australia