The Ballad of Henry Keable © Tony Win 2018

There was a brave young Laxfield boy by name of Henry Keable

He robbed a house in Aldborough with his father and a mate

The older men were hanged but young Henry kept his life

And in Norwich Castle learned that transportation was his fate

Whilst in that loathsome prison young Henry fell in love

With Susannah Holmes locked up there when she had gone astray

Her belly soon grew larger and a child was duly born

But they were bound for America and Henry for Botany Bay

Now the jailor one John Simpson was a sympathetic man

And petitioned the Home Secretary the family not to rent

Lord Sydney was persuaded and arranged for it to be

That mother and babe and husband to Australia were sent

When the ship arrived in Botany Bay the captain gave the order

For Henry to carry him ashore to protect him from the surf

Which meant that Henry Keable, a teenager from Laxfield

Was the very first European to set foot on Australian turf