**Down Under**" (also known as "**Land Down Under**") is a song recorded by Australian rock group [Men at Work](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Men_at_Work). It was released in October 1982 as the second single from their debut album [*Business as Usual*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Business_as_Usual_%28Men_at_Work_album%29) (1981). The song went to number one on American,[[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Down_Under_%28song%29#cite_note-0) British, Canadian and Australian charts. It is the only Men at Work song to make the UK top 20.It has become a popular and [patriotic song](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patriotic_song) in [Australia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australia).[[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Down_Under_%28song%29#cite_note-aa34-2)

Background and writing

[Colin Hay](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colin_Hay) told Songfacts: "The chorus is really about the selling of Australia in many ways, the over-development of the country. It was a song about the loss of spirit in that country. It's really about the plundering of the country by greedy people. It is ultimately about celebrating the country, but not in a nationalistic way and not in a flag-waving sense. It's really more than that."[[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Down_Under_%28song%29#cite_note-songfacts-3)

Content

The lyrics are about an Australian traveller circling the globe, proud of his [nationality](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nationality), and about his interactions with people he meets on his travels who are interested in his home country.

One of the verses refers to [Vegemite](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vegemite) sandwiches, among other things; the particular lyric "He just smiled and gave me a Vegemite sandwich" has become a well-known phrase.[[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Down_Under_%28song%29#cite_note-bbcmag-4)

[Slang](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slang) and drug terms are used in the lyrics:

Travelling in a fried-out Kombi, on a hippie trail, head full of zombie.

Here "fried-out" means overheated,[[6]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Down_Under_%28song%29#cite_note-songmeanings-5) Kombi refers to the [Volkswagen Type 2](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volkswagen_Type_2) combination van,and having "a head full of zombie" refers to the use of a type of [marijuana](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marijuana). Cultural slang is also used: after the second verse the refrain is "where the beer does flow and men chunder"; "chunder" means [vomit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vomiting).[[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Down_Under_%28song%29#cite_note-bbcmag-4)

The exterior shots for the music video were filmed at the [Cronulla Sand Dunes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cronulla_sand_dunes%2C_Kurnell_Peninsula) outside of Sydney The video also features several [litre](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Litre)-size cans of what appear to be [Foster's Lager](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foster%27s_Lager) (although the brand is removed), a beer drunk mainly outside Australia while being marketed as Australian

The song is a perennial favourite on Australian radio and [television](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australian_television), and topped the charts in the U.S. and UK simultaneously in early 1983.It was later used as a theme song by the crew of [*Australia II*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australia_II) in their successful bid to win the [America's Cup](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/America%27s_Cup) in 1983,[[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Down_Under_%28song%29#cite_note-9) and a remixed version appears during the closing credits of [*Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crocodile_Dundee_in_Los_Angeles). Men at Work played this song in the [closing ceremony](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2000_Summer_Olympics#Day_16_.E2.80.93_1_October) of the [2000 Sydney Olympics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2000_Summer_Olympics), alongside other Australian artists.It was also often played after Australian athletes had received medals during competition, as they walked around the venue on a parade lap after the medal ceremony

In May 2001, [Australasian Performing Rights Association](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australasian_Performing_Rights_Association) (APRA) celebrated its 75th anniversary by naming the [Best Australian Songs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/APRA_Top_30_Australian_songs) of all time, as decided by a 100 strong industry panel, "Down Under" was ranked as the fourth song on the list.[[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Down_Under_%28song%29#cite_note-10)

Lyrics

Traveling in a fried-out combie

On a hippie trail, head full of zombie

I met a strange lady, she made me nervous

She took me in and gave me breakfast

And she said,

"Do you come from a land down under?

Where women glow and men plunder?

Can't you hear, can't you hear the thunder?

You better run, you better take cover."

Buying bread from a man in Brussels

He was six-foot-four and full of muscles

I said, "Do you speak-a my language?"

He just smiled and gave me a vegemite sandwich

And he said,

"I come from a land down under

Where beer does flow and men chunder

Can't you hear, can't you hear the thunder?

You better run, you better take cover."

Lyin' in a den in Bombay

With a slack jaw, and not much to say

I said to the man, "Are you trying to tempt me

Because I come from the land of plenty?"

And he said,

"Do you come from a land down under?

Where women glow and men plunder?

Can't you hear, can't you hear the thunder?

You better run, you better take cover."

Yeah!

Living in a land down under

Where women glow and men plunder

Can't you hear, can't you hear the thunder?

You better run, you better take cover!

Living in a land down under

Where women glow and men plunder

Can't you hear, can't you hear the thunder?

You better run, you better take cover!