



# Waltzing Matilda Centre, Winton, Australia

The “unofficial anthem” of Australia is protected by Securiton

Reference Report

The new Waltzing Matilda Centre opened in April 2018 due to the original building burning down in 2015. Most of the artefacts have been salvaged from the fire and now there’s a bigger and better memory built from the words of Banjo Paterson.

The title is Australian slang for travelling by foot with one's goods (waltzing, derived from the German auf der Walz) in a "Matilda" (bag) slung over one's back. The song narrates the story of an itinerant worker, or "swagman", making a drink of tea at a bush camp and capturing a sheep to eat. When the sheep's owner arrives with three police officers to arrest the worker for the theft, the worker commits suicide by drowning himself in the nearby watering hole, after which his ghost haunts the site.

The original lyrics were written in 1895 by poet and nationalist Banjo Paterson. It was first published as sheet music in 1903. Extensive folklore surrounds the song and the process of its creation, to the extent that the song has its own museum, the Waltzing Matilda Centre in Winton, Queensland. In 2012, to remind Australians of the song's significance, Winton organised the inaugural Waltzing Matilda Day to be held on 6 April, the anniversary of its first performance.

The song was first recorded in 1926 as performed by John Collinson and Russell Callow. In 2008, this recording of "Waltzing Matilda" was added to the "Sounds of Australia Registry" in the National Film and Sound Archive which says that there are more recordings of "Waltzing Matilda" than any other Australian song.

Securiton's Early Warning System is featuring aspirating technology based on ASD 535 for protecting sensitive areas such as the warehouse of artefacts. System design, installation and commissioning has been accomplished in close cooperation with Securiton's local partner Incite Fire Pty Ltd..

"Waltzing Matilda"

Oh then once was a swagman came to the billabong  
 He had a tin can, and he sang as he looked at the old billabong  
 "You'll come a waltzing Matilda with me"  
 He took a tin can and he sang as he looked at the old billabong  
 "You'll come a waltzing Matilda with me"  
 He took a tin can and he sang as he looked at the old billabong  
 "You'll come a waltzing Matilda with me"

2<sup>nd</sup> Verse

Down came a policeman to drink at the billabong  
 He jumped the swagman & poked him with a spear  
 And he said as he put him away in the tucker bag  
 "You'll come a waltzing Matilda with me"  
 Chorus: "You'll come"

3<sup>rd</sup> Verse

Down came the swagman he up & he jumped in the water hole  
 Drowning himself by the water hole  
 And his ghost may be heard as it sings by the billabong  
 "You'll come a waltzing Matilda with me"  
 Chorus: "You'll come"



**Project Name:** Waltzing Matilda Centre  
**Project Category:** Cultural Heritage  
**Year of completion:** 2018  
**System Components:** SecurIRAS Aspirating, Smoke Detectors ASD 535

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