

# The Mongrel

Words and Music: Graeme Connors

The other side of the Great Divide is cattle country  
a land that can make you hard as nails  
the working dog's a legend out there a good one's worth two men  
but life's no bed of roses for man's best friend

There's a bloke they call 'The Mongrel' lives out west of here  
on a red dirt block with around five hundred head  
you wouldn't find a meaner man behind a prison wall  
horses, dogs or cattle he's a mongrel to them all

His wife came from the city she was a timid little thing  
didn't know what she was in for when she married him  
the neighbours hardly saw her when they did she turned away  
but the make up on the bruises told them all she didn't say

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And the story goes the only thing that kept that woman sane  
was a little kelpie cross she raised by hand  
the runt of the litter the poor thing looked half sick  
if the Mongrel had his way he would've drowned it

Then one day a close relation of the woman died  
and she went down to the funeral on her own  
came back a few days later completely mortified  
to find her little pride and joy half dead on the chain

and the best excuse the Mongrel had was somehow he'd forgot  
to put out food and water for her precious little pup  
besides he was too busy with all he had to do  
she should've thought about that before she shot through

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Now the Mongrel was a drinker and a crazy one at that  
used to go on benders now and then  
so people in the district weren't overly concerned  
if he didn't make it into town for several weeks on end

But when a month or so had passed and nothing had been heard  
the local copper thought he'd take a look around  
when he got to the property the place was deathly quiet  
then behind the shed he heard the strangest sound

when he went to check it out imagine his surprise  
at what he found there chained up to a tree  
near a tub of fetid water and a bag of dry dog food  
the emaciated Mongrel howled deliriously

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Of course they never found the wife or the sad and sickly pup  
some said the cops didn't really try some say they just gave up  
and The Mongrel well he's nothing like the man he used to be  
some nights he even lets his working dogs roam free

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The other side of the Great Divide is cattle country  
a land that tends make you hard as nails  
the working dog's a legend out there a good one's worth two men  
and that's my little story 'bout man's best friend