

MR ARTHUR SHAND'S JOURNEY THROUGH AUSTRALASIA 1878



AUGUSTINE FOUNDLED AND SANK ON A REEF OFF THE CHATHAM ISLANDS

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THE LEGENDRY ARTHUR SHAND ARRIVED IN NZ IN AUGUST 1878 FROM AUSTRALIA IN SEARCH OF OUTLETS FOR GUINNESS & SONS NEW BREW GUINNESS STOUT NOW A POPULAR TIPPLE IN IRELAND.

His first port of call was Dunedin which was in the frenzied grip of the Otago gold rush. Much like the Wild West in America the province was a raging mass of lawlessness with whisky swilling gambling and pubs a plenty.

He was amazed at what the colony had to offer and being a staunch drinker and card player himself became distracted from his purpose launching into the Dunedin nightlife of debauchery.

The drink and other activities he indulged in marred his abilities as a card player to the point he used a Guinness consignment as part of his gambling collateral. He lost! As the ship with the Irish stout was at sea on its way to Dunedin he promised his opponent payment for the gambling debt would arrive soon. The terrible news arrived that the ship the Augustine had foundered and sank on a reef off the Chatham Islands.

Apparently over the next few months Chatham Islanders were seen to be totally hammered down at the beach as bottles floated ashore with lots of dancing to a lone drunk violinist and to this day the beach is called 'Little Fiddle Bay'

Arthur sent a letter to Guinness & Sons informing them of the ships sinking requesting another load of stout but not of his gambling loss considering it just a 'little fiddle!'

Arthur Shand stole a horse and decided Dunedin was not the place for a Guinness & Son bar and scarpered in the dead of night heading to the Gold fields with a 'little fiddle here and a little fiddle there his adventure continued...



THE LITTLE FIDDLE
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