

MR ARTHUR SHAND'S JOURNEY THROUGH AUSTRALASIA 1878



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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.

Needing to leave Dunedin in a hurry over a gambling debt Arthur stole a horse and scarpered in the dead of night high tailing it to the wee gold rush town of Clyde in Central Otago. Surrounding the picturesque stone buildings there was a tent town as well which also perched on the banks of the wide and deep flowing Clutha River. The nightlife was mad with an abundance of drinking, gambling and all the debauchery you could imagine.

Arthur once again hit the card tables with only a few remaining pounds in his pockets. He won! A small bag of gold nuggets and an 1851 Navy Colt revolver were now his but he was spotted by a couple of shady characters as he left the table with his new booty. Arthur was attacked as he made his way to his horse by these two robbers. With no time to draw his pistol the fist fight was on! Having been brought up in Ireland Arthur knew how to handle himself but they started to get the better of him.

Next thing he heard a high pitched shout "Thieves, murderers!" and then the sound of smashing wood. The two assailants made off holding their heads. Arthur staggered to his feet with a bloodied face, looked down and there he saw a dwarf holding a broken violin.. "You alright mister?" the nugget small person asked. "Hey thanks for that...bastards...sorry about ya instrument wee pal." "Ah never mind" the midget said "It was just a little fiddle!"



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