

# A Billy of Tea

Words: Nigel Harbron (mainly)  
Music: Trad

The musical score is written in 3/4 time and consists of three staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "You can sing of your whis - ky and sing of your beer, But there's". The second staff continues: "some-thing much ni - cer that's wai - ting me here. It sits on the fire be -". The third staff concludes: "neath the gum tree, There is no - thing quite like a bil - ly of tea." Chord symbols (C, F, Dm, G, Am) are placed above the notes to indicate accompaniment.

You can sing of your whisky and sing of your beer,  
But there's something much nicer that's waiting me here.  
It sits on the fire beneath the gum tree,  
There's nothing quite like a billy of tea.

When you're digging for gum or for gold in the mine,  
There is only one drink that is always just fine.  
If you're short of a bob it is practically free,  
There's nothing quite like a billy of tea.

There are those that I know who drink whisky and ale,  
But it causes them only to rant and to rail.  
Around the campfire there is good company,  
And all that you need's a billy of tea.

When from this life that I'm living I have to depart,  
There is only one thing that will sure break my heart.  
Where I'm going I know that you all will agree,  
There'll be nothing quite like a billy of tea.



*Here's a recent picture of a local holding a piece of kauri gum weighing in at 76lbs - possibly the second largest piece ever found!*



**The seventh largest kauri tree in New Zealand**



**One that didn't make it**

*I picked up the first verse of this song whilst living in New Zealand in 1988, but couldn't track down any more verses at the time. Some years ago, I added the last three verses. The gum referred to in the song is from the majestic kauri tree, and was used (in processed form) mainly in paints and varnishes, although it could also be used as fuel and even as chewing gum! Sadly, most kauri trees were felled for use as timber.*