

Billy Can

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Billy Tea and the Goldfields

In general, the miner's diet was simple: including such staples as damper, mutton and tea, though clean water was not always easy to find. Tea came to the early goldfields from China, though in later years tea companies were set-up in some colonies' main cities. The Robur Tea Company was set-up in Melbourne in 1973 and Bushell's Tea started in 1883.

Traditional Billy Tea Recipe

Ingredients:

- Billy Can full of water
- Gum tree leaves (2-3) or lemon myrtle bush leaves
- Loose black tea leaves

Method:

Wash large leaves (if clean water is available) and submerge in a billy full of water. Add black tea leaves. Hang the billy can over a fire until the water boils.