



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE PURSUIT TO STRIKE IT RICH REACHES (GOLD) FEVER PITCH
IN THE NEW SEASON OF *AUSSIE GOLD HUNTERS***

THE HUNT BEGINS THURSDAY 6 JULY ON DISCOVERY CHANNEL

The remote goldfields of Western Australia have changed the fortunes of many since the gold rushes of the 1890s. In the new season of **Aussie Gold Hunters** on Discovery Channel, five hard-core crews of gold prospectors are taking the gamble of a lifetime as they battle to strike it big, deep in the wild west of outback Australia.

Launching **Thursday 6 July at 7.30pm**, Season 2 raises the stakes sky high to deliver a motherlode of new bonanzas, new dangers, new faces and new places. Returning to the epic frontier of Western Australia's goldfields, our resilient prospectors face the toughest challenge of their careers; whether it's fighting to survive, or uncovering colossal strikes, deep in the remote and unforgiving wild terrain.

Back in the game are the Dirt Dogs (Vernon Strange, Leon Marsh and Jake Larsen), the Gold Gypsies (Christine and Greg Clark), along with Kellie Carter and Henri Chassaing. But there are also some new faces too as two new teams of prospectors and a host of larger than life characters enter the fold: lone wolf Rick Fishers and husband and wife duo Ted and Lecky Mahoney. Away from the blood, sweat and tears of gold prospecting, the series delves further into their lives behind the heat and the hardship, meeting the families and rivals who share the soaring highs and lows behind the dream.

As the machines roar and the gold tallies soar, **Aussie Gold Hunters** takes you deep into the remarkable world of gold mining in Western Australia, revealing its historic towns and the legends that truly make it the wild frontier. Pushing harder, further and risking more than ever before to uncover a life-changing strike, it's go time on the goldfields. Welcome to the new rush!

PREVIEW EPISODES 1 & 2 [HERE](#) | [DOWNLOAD IMAGES HERE](#)

**Aussie Gold Hunters Season 2
Australian Television Premiere
Thursday 6 July at 7.30pm AEST
Only on Discovery Channel**

For more information, screeners or to arrange interviews, please contact:

Rachel Antella
Publicity Manager
+612 9506 2128
rachel_antella@discovery.com

Jamie-Lee Burns
Publicity Executive
+612 9506 2112
jamielee_burns@discovery.com

About Discovery Networks Asia-Pacific

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AUSSIE GOLD HUNTERS | SEASON 2 EPISODE GUIDE

Episode 1 | Thursday 6 July at 7.30pm AEST

Deep in Western Australia's iconic goldfields, five crews of gold hunters face an all-new season of bonanzas, battles, heroism and heartbreak, in their mission to strike it rich. After a crippling 5-month shutdown almost pushed their business to breaking point, bushland gold miners the Dirt Dogs face a do-or-die season, but a massive piece of new hardware - designed by 25-year-old rookie Jake Larsen - could be a key to untold riches. Meanwhile, remote prospectors Kellie Carter and Henry Chassaing face the biggest decision of their careers: stick with the plan that smashed last season's gold target, or go big and risk a fortune on massive mining machines. Joining the hunt is lone prospector Rick Fishers. Living and working alone in the harsh wild lands of the remote bush, Rick's home and office for the season is his 20-year-old transit van. But despite enduring threatening dangers, punishing conditions and the pain of leaving family 2000km away, the lone wolf is a one-man gold machine.

Episode 2 | Thursday 13 July at 7.30pm AEST

After missing out on last season's gold target, self-taught miners Chris and Greg Clark decide to go for broke, or go broke. But a high-risk deal could land them in deep trouble, as they receive harrowing news. Meanwhile, the Dirt Dogs' rookie prospector Jake Larsen goes rogue. But a chance discovery could lead to a game changing strike, right when the hard battlers need it most. And childhood sweethearts and tough as nails prospectors Ted and Lecky Mahoney aim to hit their target with an ambitious season plan. But a bolt from the blue could send their dream scheme back to the drawing board.

Episode 3 | Thursday 20 July at 7.30pm AEST

After starting their season in red hot form, remote prospectors Henri and Kellie take to Lake Cowan, a vast Salt Lake the size of London. Armed with a new piece of gold hungry technology, their plans to unearth a fortune in big nuggets face a severe test. Meanwhile, after a nightmare start to their season, Gold Gypsies Chris and Greg face a desperate battle to secure a new mine site. But a last chance deal leaves them only one option: to resurrect the high maintenance dry blowing plant that almost broke them last season. And lone wolf prospector Rick takes to the road, heading to the remote frontier town of Leonora. But after a crippling breakdown leaves him facing disaster, a chance meeting could transform his season.

Episode 4 | Thursday 27 July at 7.30pm AEST

After tracking down a rare reef gold formation, the Dirt Dogs look set to turn a major find into a massive one. But as hopes of a vast gold tally rise, an explosion of troubles throws their season plans into chaos. Meanwhile, Henri and Kellie set out to hunt specimen or 'speccie' gold at an arid, remote site called Bluebird. But as bush fires close in, a huge discovery could set the remote prospectors up with a best ever tally. And hard-core prospectors Ted and Lecky turn guns for hire, as they're tasked to find the perfect piece of salt lake gold amidst a million metre search area. But a missing persons alert turns their gold hunt into a manhunt.

Episode 5 | Thursday 3 August at 7.30pm AEST

As the gold season reaches the halfway mark, Rick teams up with old timer 'Biggy' to explore a mysterious site outside the legendary town of Laverton. Acting on a tip off, the lone wolf puts his season in the larger than life veteran's hands. Meanwhile, husband and wife prospectors Ted and Lecky Mahoney are forced to downsize their gold target as they head for the frontier outpost of Leonora. But a treasure trove of historic finds could kick-start the hard-core prospectors season, right when they need it the most. And after a succession of setbacks, self-made miners the Gold Gypsies hatch a high-risk mission to explore ancient mine works in search of precious pay-dirt. But as they brave the dangers of cave-ins and snake attacks, a new threat could stop their mission in its tracks.

Episode 6 | Thursday 10 August at 7.30pm AEST

At their Jackson mine site, hard grafting gold miners, the Dirt Dogs, uncover a brand-new gold source that could supercharge their season. But when a chance discovery reveals what could be a lost legend of the goldfields, millions of dollars could be at stake for the bushland battlers. Meanwhile, for Henri and Kellie, a barren site named 'Dry Well' proves to be anything but - as ferocious weather threatens to decimate their equipment and season. As tensions mount, the duo must battle the elements and each other to save their mission from a wash out. And at Bulong, the Gold Gypsies are determined to push through their troubles and get their season back on track. But when a deadly snake threatens to invade their base camp, their plans are thrown into panic.

Episode 7 | Thursday 17 August at 7.30pm AEST

Episode 8 | Thursday 24 August at 7.30pm AEST

Episode 9 | Thursday 31 August at 7.30pm AEST

Episode 10 | Thursday 7 September at 7.30pm AEST

THE CREWS

DIRT DOGS | Vernon Strange, Leon Marsh & Jake Larsen **GOLD TARGET: 400 ounces (value AUD \$640,000)**

The Dirt Dogs, Vernon Strange and Leon Marsh are mining and drilling veterans who roll the dice, taking a big financial risk to dig themselves out of trouble. As well as buying up brand new remote mining leases across the goldfields for their pay-dirt hungry \$500,000 dry blower Goldzilla, the Dogs have set up a new high stakes project called a 'heap leach' which is a method of extracting tiny scraps of gold from raw dirt: nuggets so small that even Goldzilla can't trap them. It's a massive undertaking, where the smallest mistake can cost fortunes: requiring huge construction machinery and major resources to build, and expert scientific skills to run. Only time will tell if this season is to be a record-breaker for the Dirt Dogs and if their hopes and plans pay off.



This season 25-year-old Jake Larsen earns his stripes with a massive gold find and becomes a fully-fledged Dirt Dog. He also brings Millzilla – his self-made gold processing mill - to the Dog's mine site at Jackson which helps fill the kitty.

But it's not all plain sailing for the Dogs this season as they struggle to hit their \$640,000 target, with bad weather and broken machinery delaying the start of their gold hunting season. It's a race against time, and the elements, to process as much gold as they can to keep their mine site running and to finance the build of their new heap leach.

Based at their remote mine sites Jackson and Broadbents, the Dirt Dogs and Goldzilla get down to dusty work processing paydirt to make a living. This season they are assisted by electrician Mark "Marko" Smith who has been brought in to build the gold producing heap leach, along with his 18 year-old rookie son Jackson "Jacko" Smith.

Under constant pressure to meet their season target both Leon and Vern welcome visits to the mine site from their families. Vern's daughter Carly is keen to learn the gold-finding ropes from her Dad and together they strike a big patch at "Strange Creek."

With running costs of \$1,000 per day to keep the dogs ticking over and a \$200,000 investment in their new heap leach there's no time to waste, and any holdups hit The Dirt Dogs hard. Keeping Goldzilla fully operational does not always go to plan. The Dogs know full well, every stoppage can be critical. Goldzilla's not called a "dry" blower for nothing. Just a few drops of rain in the soil can bring their whole operation to a shuddering halt.

And, if the breakdowns and weather weren't pressure enough, the Dirt Dogs face another menace in the remote bush – gold poachers. Vern's constantly on the hunt for those foolish enough to trespass on his leases and in Season 2, Vern and Marko catch a pair of gold poachers red-handed. It's a tense stand-off between the poachers and lease holders especially when Vern spots a gun in the back of the gold thieves vehicle.

After defending their precious gold resources, it's time for the Dogs to dig some more out of the ground for themselves. Could a surprising gold find at Pharaoh's be the once in a lifetime golden bonanza that Vern has always dreamed about?

It's a sprint to the series finish line for the Dirt Dogs. Will their expensive experiment with the heap leach deliver the kilos of gold they are hoping for to reach target?

GOLD GYPSIES | Christine & Greg Clark

GOLD TARGET: 50 ounces (value AUD \$80,000)

The Gold Gypsies face some tough choices in Season 2. Greg's elderly Dad is based thousands of kilometres away in Queensland and could do with some day-to-day help. And whilst the Gypsies worry about being so far away, the lure of the Western Australian goldfields is too great. With Dad's blessing and a healthy dose of gold fever encouraging them, Chris and Greg head back West to get started on their gold season.



First up is a rare opportunity to enter into a partnership with a big time local lease owner, Tan. The deal is that in return for exclusive access to his leases, the Gold Gypsies will use their machinery to mine the gold. It's a tough negotiation to work out the split of the proceeds. Will the Gold Gypsies be able to deliver?

For these two gold obsessed gamblers the bottom line is simple: it's strike big or go bust. They've cashed in their savings and worked their way through a shopping list of all things gold mining: two detectors, a 15 tonne loader to scoop up the dirt, and the centerpiece of their operation - a 22 tonne excavator worth \$35,000. Without the excavator they wouldn't be able to rip through the bedrock and get to the gold. Greg says, "*We wouldn't find half of the gold we find without it.*" But this season there's nothing but trouble with the lease and the equipment.

The Gypsies have to do some swift negotiating to get themselves out of disaster and onto the gold. But it comes at a price; can the Gypsies hold on, hold strong and find enough gold to keep going?

Despite the setbacks, Chris and Greg want to make sure that they extract *every* gram of gold there is before they move on from this lease. This gold hunting couple work hard in the heat. Greg operates the loader and excavator to open up the gold-rich topsoil that Chris picks clean using her high-powered detector.

Their lease is in the heart of an old gold rush area that has been successfully mined for over a hundred years. Whilst they have a lot of respect for the old timers' ability to find gold, Chris and Greg's use of modern mining methods and equipment means there's a good chance a lot more gold can be found at these sites. Chris and Greg make some surprising discoveries on their lease, and not all are welcomed ones.

After a hard day prospecting, it's a short ride to the comfortable base camp they have built for themselves and their two beloved poodles, Nugget and Lolly. The camp is fenced and is suppose to keep the dogs safe from bush predators such as snakes and the poisoned baits laid out to cull wild dogs. But disaster strikes when the gate is accidentally left open.

Greg has constructed an annexe around their caravan that houses a pizza oven, flat screen television and a well-stocked cool drink fridge. When they are not on the hunt for gold they like to eat well, relax and watch gold shows on television!

With no savings left, the self taught prospecting duo will need every last drop of talent, hard work and 'never say die' attitude if they're to reach their ambitious season target of 50 ounces, worth \$80,000. If they don't...it could be game over.

Kellie Carter and Henri Chassaing **GOLD TARGET: 60 ounces (value AUD \$96,000)**

Best friends Kellie Carter and Henri Chassaing are *Aussie Gold Hunters'* odd couple. She is a classic outback woman with a love of wild open spaces. He is a French-Swiss sophisticate from the frozen heart of Europe's snow county. In any other place they'd be polar opposites, if it weren't for their shared love of gold.

In Season 2, these two once again join forces to hunt for even more Aussie gold nuggets. They have set themselves a target of unearthing 60 ounces of gold, worth \$96,000. Armed with their wits, detectors, an off-road caravan and quad bike, Kellie and Henri are ready to hightail it deep into the Australian bush - far from the tourists, part-timers and lightweights who pick the easy ground clean.



But first they have to decide whether to expand their mining operation and invest in some heavy equipment. Henri's dead keen to push ahead, but Kellie has some concerns about the cost involved. It is crunch time. Do they go big, or continue doing what they do best - finding gold under their own steam. After some heated debates Henri and Kellie decide to take advice from the Gold Gypsies, who give them some sobering food for thought.

Putting aside their differing opinions they head off to remote locations where it's all hands on deck to set up their home away from home. With a built in bathroom and toilet, their caravan is more "glamping" than camping. Henri would be just as happy sleeping under the stars, declaring, "*I'm not here for the Ritz Carlton, I am here to find gold!*" However Kellie is less enthusiastic.

Venturing deep into the outback should deliver Kellie and Henri more gold, but with it comes more risk. They'll be working far beyond the reaches of phone coverage, surrounded by thousands of kilometres of arid desert and burnt out bush land under a baking hot sun. Kellie and Henri also hunt for gold on the endless barren salt flats that litter the goldfields. In Season 2 they visit the home of Western Australia's largest ever nugget and travel further afield to Leonora and Kookynie. It's a risky venture - one mistake on the unpredictable ground and they risk getting stranded, far from rescue.

For a smooth running, zero stress, well tuned partnership, it's a daunting challenge. If only Henri and Kellie were just that. As these two feisty, freedom-loving souls are the first to admit, when it comes to gold, they don't always see eye to eye.

After smashing their gold target last season Henri Chassaing and Kellie Carter are faced with a new, sky-high season target, the duo must go deeper and harder than ever, on a new mission to explore every last gold-bearing corner of the wild bush.

Ted and Lecky Mahoney

GOLD TARGET: 40 ounces (value AUD \$64,000)

Joining the hunt for this season, are work-hard-play-hard prospectors, Ted and Lecky Mahoney. The childhood sweethearts have seen it all, and done it all in the gold game, winning and losing fortunes along the way. But as a new season begins they're setting out on the toughest high risk, high reward mission of their careers.

Ted and Lecky have lived in Kalgoorlie, WA for years and are plugged into the community. They know lots of the locals, and have a great knowledge of where gold has been found, and can be found. Tapping into this knowledge this loved up couple head off on gold hunting adventures with family and friends, scouring salt lakes and the remote locations to find nuggets. Despite the heat and hardships, Ted and Lecky's sense of humour is always on tap *"one day you have steak, the next day baked beans."* And patience is key because *"there's no rush in the gold rush."*



Some of this they have learned the hard way but in *Aussie Gold Hunters* Season 2 they set out to make their season target of \$64,000. As they head off into the wilderness in their old faithful 4WD "Marnie" armed with \$20,000 of detectors and accessories and basic camping gear, they are doing what they love the most and do the best – looking for gold at their own pace.

They are always on the lookout for another big strike and Lecky is hoping that this season will be the year that she can join the exclusive 5oz Nugget Club. Ted's already a member, and their friendly but competitive banter spurs both of them on to not only outdo each other, but find bigger and better gold than ever before.

Heading north to Leonora, Ted and Lecky catch up with indigenous mates Talbot and Maurveen who show them not only the local goldfields but some local Aboriginal history. Ted and Lecky are amazed at the relics in the area including the historical ghost town settlement at Gwalia. And, they return to Kalgoorlie with more than just a history lesson – two extremely rare and valuable finds send them on a trip to Perth to get a proper evaluation.

As they head towards the season end, Ted and Lecky recruit the help of their daughter Tyler to make target. Tyler lives and works in Melbourne as a model and jewellery designer but is happy to put down the makeup and take up her work gear to help her Mum and Dad slog out their last gold hunt for the year.

Rick Fishers

GOLD TARGET: 20 ounces (value AUD \$32,000)

Also new to Season 2 is solo prospector Rick Fishers, who lives and works alone for six months of the year, amidst the isolation and brutal conditions of the deep outback, with just his 20 year old transit van for company. It's not just his wheels, but also his only home in the goldfields and he has kitted it out with a comfy bed, shower and refrigerator.

Rick has to be sure that he has got everything he needs with him before he heads out bush: water, diesel, food. He can only survive 10 days without a restock. But 10 days also gives him time to head off to extremely remote places where he can gold hunt to his heart's content. And yes, his 2-wheel Ford Transit van takes him pretty much anywhere and everywhere. Rick reckons *"I take it places that 4WDers would fear to tread."*



But mechanical issues on a gold hunt far away from Kalgoorlie threaten to draw this lone wolf's season to an early close. Fortunately, remote mechanic George is not only able to help him back on the road, but steers Rick towards a potential new patch of gold.

Rick also visits the Wild West town of Laverton once the scene of one of the biggest gold rushes in the 1890s. With a reputation as one of the wildest settlements in the goldfields, it is claimed that the only person buried in the local cemetery as a result of natural causes is a six-week old baby and that other men died "with their boots on."

It's here that Rick catches up with old mate Biggy, a local Laverton prospector, who takes him on a trip back in time through old gold diggings and onto a possible undetected patch of nuggets.

But when things go wrong out here, the results can be catastrophic and being so isolated means that Rick has no choice but to drive the 360km back into Kalgoorlie to get help. It's a frustrating end to his road trip, but help comes in the form a quirky couple of rookie prospectors who Rick decides to "pay it forward" with an invitation to come out prospecting with him. Rick's happy to help show some gold hunting ropes to these newbies, remembering how other people helped him in his early days. And, there is nothing more delighting than seeing someone uncover their very first gold nugget!

As his season draws to a close, Rick is way behind target. He's forced to make some big decisions – should he stay or should he go? He decides to go back to one of his spots nearer to Kalgoorlie and finish detecting every inch of dirt – leaving no corner undetected - before he calls it quits for the year and heads home. Rick's hoping that one last thorough sweep will see his season end successfully.

Then he's off on the 2,100km long drive back to Adelaide in time for his daughter's 21st birthday. Will there be cause for double celebration?