

FOSSICKIN' ROUND

THE VICTORIAN SEEKERS BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 33, issue 4

July/August 2012

Kay detecting
at Homebush

Inside This Issue

Kalgoorlie Tour Report



Kingower Camp Report

Homebush Camp Report

New Minelab Detector



Minelab CTX 3030

The Victorian Seekers' Club

Is a family oriented organization, the objectives of which are to promote friendship, cooperation and exchange of ideas among people interested in prospecting and metal detecting. To realize these aims, we have meetings, lectures, discussions and practical demonstrations to help members acquire the skills required to make prospecting and metal detecting an enjoyable and rewarding pastime. We arrange outings to the goldfields and other prospecting sites, beaches, camps, ghost towns etc, to search for gold, coins, relics, gemstones and other natural and man made objects of value and / or of interest. In addition, we also have functions to foster social contacts among members. Our conduct is governed by a strict code of ethics including avoiding trespassing on private property or damaging the natural environment, hence our motto:

"Seek, But Do Not Destroy"

Membership is open to adult persons and their minor children without regard to race, creed or political persuasion, who are interested in these pursuits and prepared to abide by our Constitution and Rules of Conduct. VSC has general meetings on the first Wednesday of each month (except January) at the Mulgrave Senior Citizens and Community Centre, 355 Wellington Road Mulgrave, and at a field trip each month and, in addition, we also have some occasional day outing.

Annual Membership Fees

Family Membership: \$40.00

Single Membership: \$35.00

One off joining fee: \$ 5.00

Subscriptions are due and payable by the 1st of July each year.

Website: <http://seekers.metapath.org>

email:

PO Box 15, Mt Waverley, VIC 3149

Committee of Management

PRESIDENT: Eric GRUMMETT 9999 9999
email; ...

Club management/ representation, Chairperson of meetings.

VICE PRESIDENT: Graeme SILVER 9999 9999

President's deputy, arranging speakers.

SECRETARY: Lindsay TRICKER 9999 9999

Correspondence, rules, meetings, admin. matters etc.

TREASURER: Denise HEGARTY (Mrs) 9999 9999

Budget, finance matters (other than subscriptions)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Ian SEMMENS 9999 9999

email:

Typing & setting out Newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.. Mieke SMITS (Mrs) 9999 9999

Subscriptions, membership records, changes of addresses, etc.

RESEARCH OFFICER: vacant

Information about outings, field activity and site control.

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Disclaimer:

Opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect that of the VSC Committee.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Please send your articles, ads, etc, to reach the editor no later than by the 15th of the month in which they have to appear in the newsletter. Articles need to be sent by email as a Word or similar file.

Please email to Ian at:

and if possible include any photos as a jpeg file.

Events Calendar

July

Wed 4th: General Meeting. First Aid: CPR Video and practical demonstration.

Fri 13th to Tues 17th: Camp Tarnagulla

August

Wed 1st: General Meeting.

Fri 10th to Tues 14th: Camp Heathcote

Fri 24th: Theatre Night -"Woman In Black" Lillydale

September

Wed 5th: General Meeting. Annual General Meeting

Fri 14th to Tues 18th: Camp Eaglehawk

October

Wed 3rd: General Meeting.

Fri 12th to Tues 16th: Camp Talbot

Sat 27th - Sun 28th: PMAV AGM Clunes

Editors Report

by Ian Semmens

A big issue this month with three outing reports and the dramatic news of a new model of detector from Minelab.

Many thanks for those that have contributed to this issue and a reminder to those who are able to either write something down or direct us to an article that may be of interest to the members, to please let us know.

Happy treasure hunting out there and stay safe!

The Victorian Seekers' Club

Website: <http://seekers.metapath.org/>

General Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month (Except January) at the Mulgrave Senior Citizens & Community Centre, 355 Wellington Road, Mulgrave, MELWAYS (80, C1). Meetings start at 8.00 pm sharp, punctual arrival would be very much appreciated.

General meeting dates for 2012: Feb 1, Mar 7, Apr 4, May 2, Jun 6, Jul 4, Aug 1, Sep 5, Oct 3, Nov 7, Dec 5.

Committee meetings for 2012: Jan 31, Feb 28, Mar 27, Apr 24, May 29, June 26, July 31, Aug 28, Sept 25, Oct 30, Nov 25.

President's Report

by Eric Grummett

It's amazing how resilient us prospectors are to the weather. Last week we were out in almost sub- zero temperatures, and at Xmas we were detecting when it was over 40°C. This gold fever can push our bodies to the limit at times if we allow it, but with a bit of luck the disease won't be terminal for any of us. Not so for our cars, as the cold weather at the Homebush flattened the batteries on 2 cars, which isn't too bad if there is another member's car handy to jump start you. Ian S. had decided to stay a few extra days at camp on his own and unfortunately experienced a flat battery on his last day, and being 8 kilometres from town on a Sunday and not in the RACV placed him in a predicament. Lucky for him, his phone still worked and was able to get in touch with John B in Talbot who gratuitously came to his rescue. The lesson learned from this is to always have a backup plan for mechanical breakdown, especially if you are on your own out in the bush [that doesn't mean ring John]. The RACV has helped our members on many occasions over the years while on a camp and is good value.

Two of our members have recently required the services of air ambulances. At the end of April, John F while in Tibbooburra suffered heart problems, and as a precaution was flown to Adelaide for treatment by the Flying Doctor. He is now OK and is in WA with Peter M, Bob L and Tom T. My brother David has had a bad fall from a ladder while working 5 meters off the ground building a shed near Port Campbell, sustaining 5 broken ribs, a punctured lung, broken pelvis and a cracked spine which earned him a helicopter flight to the Alfred Hospital where he was in intensive care for a couple of weeks. It looks like he will be in for a long convalescence and rehab. He is now a retired shed builder.

The PMAV is finally getting somewhere on negotiations with the state government for improved access to National and State Parks. It has taken about 20 years of lobbying to get the ministers responsible to promise a serious review. Let's keep our fingers crossed for a favourable result. Rita Bentley and her committee must be congratulated for their persistent hard work on this matter. If it comes off it will mean new areas will be opened up to us for possible club trips.

The successful PMAV promotional video "21st Century Prospecting in Victoria" has now passed 225,000 visits around the world. Look it up on YouTube.com, there are many faces on it you will recognise. I hope that they don't all want to come to Victoria to search for our gold.

A new threat to our club's integrity has arisen recently with the false inferring on a public prospecting forum that we have left many holes on a particular goldfield just because we go there once a year, with no evidence to back up his claim. It is strange that another club has been accused on another forum of the same thing at the same place at the same time, when in fact many other prospectors and clubs frequent the area as well. I wrote to the forum moderators and warned them of the dangers of allowing false informa-

General Meetings

by Graeme Silver

May

Simon Purssey from Yellow Cabs gave a lively discussion about the Taxi Industry in general and it was appreciated and enjoyed by all present.



June

This meeting was a Show and Tell Night. Every display that was shown by Members was extremely interesting because these were all recovered over a period of time and yes, they all had to be cleaned and polished because they were all dug up.



July

This month there will be shown a DVD on CPR and First Aid. It is a Topic that is very important to everyone. You could be faced with this kind of situation --- Remember to do something is better than doing nothing by walking away and leaving that person to possibly die.

September

This Month is the Annual General Meeting --- There will be no Guest Speaker. Stay around for tasty treats.

October

Geoff Lee will be explaining the basics of the Internet plus the benefits of using Email for contacting people etc. This promises to be an extremely interesting evening!

tion on their forum that may affect a club's reputation. I also pointed out that on this occasion 90% of our detecting was on private land and it was most unlikely that we could be blamed for the said state of the presumed public land. All the above is a particular reason why we must be vigilant when out detecting and fill all holes we come across. With all this social media and open forums available now it is easy to be given a bad name, so we must be seen to be environmentally responsible, as we have 32 years of good reputation at stake. Keep warm this cold winter, hope to see you all at Tarnagulla.

General Meetings

Find of the Month: May

Ralph
12.6 gram nugget



Find of the Month: June

Peter M
20 gram nugget



Eric's and Jimmy's displays at the last meeting.

May Camp Report

Kingower

by Virginia Lake.

Bob and I arrived at the Kingower camp site 10 o'clock Thursday to see 4 camps already set up. Having arrived Monday, Warren and Robyn were first to set up camp for the May outing. As we use a generator we thought to camp some distance from the already established camps, however where we camped turned out to be the hub of the camp! The advantage was we were able to provide light for sitting around the camp fire, and what great fires they were too. Thank you to all who collected wood it was greatly appreciated. Altogether 35 people attended the May outing; 21 camps and 3 day visitors.

With the exception of Sunday where we had a shower of rain the weather was kind to us with mostly sunny days and clear nights. Small gold was found along with 2 very nice specimens, one being in a very large piece of quartz rock.

John B bought to camp several size coils allowing members to try them out, thank you John.

Friday night we heard a loud crash coming from Val & Barry's van, apparently Val had dropped the remaining lasagna from her dinner party And Barry was looking forward to a second helping too! Millie, Barry S's dog, was thoroughly spoilt by getting the remains. How contented did she look too.

Talking about being spoilt, all the ladies at camp received a rose from Francois for Mother's Day. A very big "Thank You" to Francois from all of us, it made our day. Thank you also to Peter M for the hot scones, jam & cream and to Graeme M for the party pies at our Happy Hour.

The question has been raised as to whether the screen for reversing cameras should be larger after Eric backed into a tree!

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June Camp Report

Homebush

Story by Tina Whelan

Photos By Ian S.

As I arrived on Thursday before the signs were up, the directions to the camp were confusing as I hadn't been to this camp for 10 years. Once we worked it out, a few others had already arrived, and by Saturday we had over 30 camps with 40 members, which is surprising as we are into winter and have many away detecting in the west (W.A.).

After getting up each morning to a chilly zero degrees, we then had warm and sunny days to follow later in the day. We had a good 24 hour camp fire to warm our bottoms thanks to Warren, Jack and Barry and Eric for the wood collection.

Some small gold was found by most, with some notable sizes of 2.4gm, 4.2gm, and a beaut 14 gm by David B. Our illustrious leader lost a small piece he found while showing, which dropped to the ground and could not be located with his detector or two others who also tried to detect it. Not to be beaten he stripped off thinking it may have caught up in his clothes, all to no avail, so that's one nugget find that doesn't count for him.

Happy hour on Saturday started off with dampers which were soon disposed of, even the burnt one. This was followed by Graham M's delicious spring rolls. The raffle was well attended and was very successful, thanks to all those who donated prizes and for the help [Nola, Geoff, and Ken]

We had some possible new members come out with us for the first time to try detecting, Neville and his wife in a nice new van, and Stuart with his 10 year old boy Tom, who tented it, all with borrowed detectors. After some quick instruction from Eric, and on how to hang onto gold, Tom started off well by winning our nugget hunt, which earned him \$20, not a bad introduction for him. We couldn't get the smile off his face for the rest of the day.

One of our members who drives a Land Cruiser arrived late, so decided to stay a few extra days after we all departed, leaving himself in charge. Well all went well until his departure on Sunday he found his car battery was flat, and being several kilometres from the nearest habitation realised he was in a predicament. He was not in the RACV but his phone would work though and a call to John B at Talbot, who was able to come to the rescue, came at a great relief for the said member. Big thanks to John for his good deed. The member is now looking at Roadside Assistance schemes. Let this exercise be a lesson to us all.

Wildlife spotted in the bush were wallabies, kangaroos, an Eastern pigmy possum, a hare, wild goats, a pig and in the paddock near the camp were 3 lamas.

What a wonderful camp this was, enjoyed by all and is one to remember.



Geoff near the diggings.



The other Geoff near the diggings.



Stewart & Tom in the token hunt.



John in the token hunt.



Barry, Nola & Neville in the token hunt.



David B.'s 14 gram nugget.

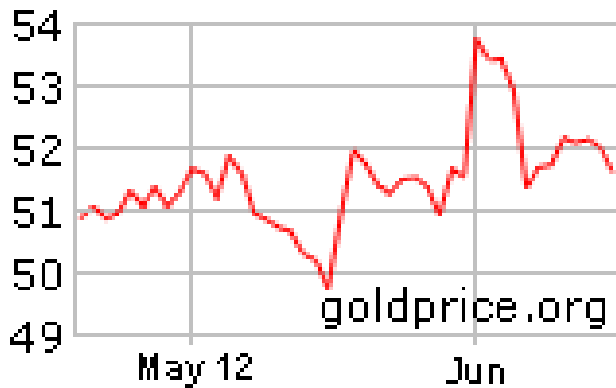


Round the campfire.

Gold Price Report

By Ian Semmens

60 Day Gold Price in AUD/g



Over the last 60 days (since the last issue) the price of gold in AU\$/gram had stayed steady around the AU\$51-52 per gram with a pike in early June to \$53.80 AU per gram. Price as at 19/06/2012.

From the Photo Album



David B.'s 20 gram nugget found during Easter this year.

Social Outing

Theatre Night
“WOMAN IN BLACK”
Friday 24th August 2012
Athenaeum Theatre, Lillydale
Tickets \$22.00.
For tickets see Val at the meetings or
call on 9999 9999

We will meet for a meal beforehand
at a local hotel.

NOTE: Change of Date for this event.



Eric panning at a dam at Homebush

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By Ian Semmens



A NEW COIN & RELIC DETECTOR FROM MINELAB

Minelab have recently announced a new Coin & Relic Detector (Minelab prefers the term "Treasure" detector), the **CTX 3030** which is available now and retails for **\$2,695.00**. This is the most advanced and expensive treasure detector that they have made to date and it hosts some new and exciting technologies. These seem set to make this a very powerful tool in treasure recovery. Chief among these is the improved discrimination, improved separation of targets, the use of wireless technology for the headphones and the incorporation of a GPS receiver into the detector. Other nice improvements are, adding a manual ground balance in addition to the auto balance, making the detector waterproof, the use of a large 4 Ah Li-Ion battery and adding a colour display.

The following is taken from the Minelab website:

www.minelab.com/aus/products/treasure-detectors/ctx3030

Main Features:

- **Waterproof:** You can go detecting anywhere with this versatile TREASURE detector. You have the flexibility of land and underwater detecting as the CTX 3030 is waterproof* to 10 ft (3 m).
- **Wireless Audio:** Have the freedom to detect without your headphones being attached to your detector. With the WM 10 Wireless Module you have the choice of using the built-in speaker, supplied headphones or your own favourite headphones.
- **Ultimate FeCo Discrimination:** With Ferrous (Fe) and Conductivity (Co) target resolution, plus adjustable

Tone ID Profiles, you can detect (accept) the targets you want to and ignore (reject) the rest. With Target Trace and Target Separation, you can identify multiple targets simultaneously for accurate detecting results.

- **Full Colour Display:** The full colour LCD clearly displays more target information than ever before and greatly enhances the CTX 3030's discrimination capabilities.
- **GPS Locating:** See where you have been, and where you are going, by using the Map screen and Navigation Tool.
 - GeoTrails show the ground that you have already covered.
 - WayPoints mark points of interest.
 - FindPoints mark your treasure locations.
 - GeoHunts record your entire detecting adventure.
- **PC Mapping (with Google Maps):** Upload all of your detector settings and treasure locations to your PC using the XChange 2 application. Attach photos and text to your finds, group them into categories. View the locations on Google Maps. You can also download data to your detector for re-exploring favourite areas.
- **Quick Menus (and smart functions):** Quick Menus give you easy access to 'on the go' adjustments. Smart functions (Sensitivity, Noise Cancel, Audio, Ground Balance) and a customisable User button allow fast changes to your most used controls while detecting.
- **Ergonomic Design:** The well balanced design has all the battery weight behind the armrest for comfortable detecting. The detector is fully adjustable to suit your needs.
- **Key Technologies**
 - FBS 2 uses multiple frequency transmission and coil-to-detector data communication to find more targets in variable ground conditions.
 - Smartfind 2 provides digital signal processing and precision FeCo discrimination, with colour target information, for the best target identification results.
 - GPSi has very high sensitivity for accurate recording of geo locations.
 - Wi-Stream creates very fast wireless audio with no loss of sound quality.



Kalgoorlie Tour Report

Report & Photos by Rob Shannon

Prospecting in Kalgoorlie

We arrived in Perth and the weather was mild and sunny a change from the dark overcast skies of Melbourne where we had left. After collecting our camper trailer it was off to the supermarket to stock up on supplies for the 9 day outback adventure. Our trip to Kalgoorlie took us 6 hours with the odd break in between, passing through some old town and gold fields the excitement was building. We arrived at our base camp where we erected the camper trailer with its awning and my tent then called it a night. Luckily we didn't have to move locations for the whole tour, we departed off in the mornings and returned for lunch and tea.

Our tour was with GPA (Gold Prospecting Australia) run by Mark Hyde, a very experienced operator, who has been detecting for the last 30 years. He runs many tours during the year in both WA and VIC where you can tag along to different spots and sharpen your skills with him walking beside you, listening to your signals and tuning your machine to give its potential. He also operates day training tours out from Bendigo, these are for the beginners or anyone who needs help learning about their machine. This is where it all started for me, I attended a training day and found my very first nugget with thanks to Mark.

The next morning we grouped around and introduced ourselves to the other colleagues that joined us. We spent half the morning around the camp site detecting. A lot didn't go far from camp however I found some potential looking land on a side of a small ridge hidden by bushes and trees about 600 meters away. Nice looking quartz with ironstone and greenstone streaming its way down hill. It was this spot I found 3 nuggets about a gram each and I was licking my lips! Noon fast approached and it was time to depart the base (to my disappointment) and head in the direction of a goldfield close by. We did this every morning, and each was to a different spot where Mark thought it looked potential. Great looking land with bright red clay soils littered with quartz and ironstone that got the name 'Salt and Pepper' because it did just look like that, salt and pepper! The nugget count from the group came in pretty fast with the odd 2 gram nugget here and 4 gram nugget there. It didn't take long for everyone to find their first WA nugget.

One morning I went for a long walk, away from the group that was detecting on a certain spot. After 700 meters I came across a very small hill full of large country rock and ironstone, and half way up there was a tiny quartz reef with large quartz boulders working its way down this hill in a 'V' shape pattern. I scratched my head and was thinking about the potential. So I walked up its flank to inspect the reef and happened to notice large deep detector holes all around (had to be 10-12). They were deep so it had to be gold? I only had a small coil on at the time and was a long way back to the 4 wheel drive, so I proceeded to move some of these large rocks that were anything up to shoe box size out of the way. Then I gave the detector a swing and there behold, I got a lovely little tone! A signal that sounded deep due to its faint whisper, so with the pick in hand more large rocks were moved until I got close to top soil. Once again the tone was there but only getting louder, excitement was

building and I knew it had to be something good, perhaps a one ounce? More digging was made, and I must say I was going at the rate of knots! Again with the detector I gave the coil a swing over the hole and she was out. My heart was really beating by now. Each handful went over the coil to locate the target until she sounded, after the fourth scoop she was in my hand! There and behold was a lovely piece a piece of a bloody silver paper clip! Must have fallen between the cracks of the rocks and worked its way into the soil. The one that got away, well at least from a mental prospective. I thought the last ten minutes that I was onto something very nice indeed.



The nine days had come and gone in no time. My total tally was 10 nuggets of a weight just under 10 grams. No big finds on this tour and a bit low on the gold count from average however, I came out on 3rd place from 16 which I was happy with. The beautiful landscape and people from the group had really made it into a truly unforgettable experience. Mark did an outstanding job running the event and credit goes out to him and his professionalism. I would not hesitate to re-join another of his tours in the future. Now, remember that small hill near the camp site I was telling you about where I found the 3 gold nuggets? A certain person from the group was trying to suss me out and to the location of the finds. After the last day of the tour he stayed behind and remained at the camp for couple of extra days, time I didn't have due to flight commitments. And on the following day he had followed my foot prints into the bush leading up the hill where he also found several other pieces including a solid triangular 8.6 gram nugget, 6.1 gram, 4.0 gram and a specimen.

I only wish I had that extra time ...

** Special thanks goes to John and Joan B who helped train my father prior to our trip. It was his first time he ever picked up a detector and walked away with 3 nuggets 1.7 grams in total weight.*





VICTORIAN SEEKERS CLUB

Application Form for Membership Renewal July 2012 ~ June 2013

Membership fees of the VSC becomes due on the **1st of July 2012**.

Members are requested to renew their membership as soon as possible. For members who have not renewed their membership by the **1st of September 2012** it will be considered that the membership has expired and they will no longer receive the newsletter nor be able to attend camps until the membership renewal is paid. If it is paid after the 1st of September 2012 a re-joining fee of \$5.00 may be payable upon renewal. This form is for renewal only.

You can fill out this form, attach the payment and post it in to the Membership secretary: - Mrs. Mieke Smits or hand it to her at the next general meeting, or to a committee member at the next camp. The postal address is

Name(s).....

Address.....

Suburb/Town..... State Postcode

Telephone Home..... Mobile

Email ☐ Tick this box if you would like to receive the newsletter by email.
(Do not tick if you are **already** receiving the newsletter by email.)

☐ Single Membership \$35 ☐ Family Membership \$40.00

I agree to abide by the terms and conditions of membership of the VSC.

Signed.....Date.....

Signed.....Date.....

Do you have any suggestions as how to improve the meetings or the outings?

.....
.....

VICTORIAN SEEKERS CLUB INC.

NOMINATION FORM FOR OFFICE BEARER for the year 2012-2013

To be delivered to the Club's Secretary (Lindsay Tricker 9999 9999)
no less than 7 days prior to the AGM



Vacant positions:

President,
Vice president,
Public officer,
Secretary,
Treasurer,
Membership secretary,
Social secretary
Research officer,
Newsletter editor,
Newsletter distributor,
Almoner,
Librarian,
Catering supervisor
Field officers

I,

Nominate:

For the following position:

Seconded by:

Accepted:

NOTE:

Change of address for the Vic Seekers website.

Due to closure of the current website host
the current Vic Seekers website address
will cease working on June 30th 2012.

The new address is:

<http://seekers.metapath.org/>

This website is currently working in parallel
with the one to be phased out.

If you have saved the old address in Favor-
ites you are advised to change it to the new
address as soon as possible.

Many thanks to Geoff Lee for putting in the
time and effort in making the shifting of our
site to the new address possible. This was
done in difficult circumstances and at short
notice as he was detecting in the bush in
WA. Thanks to mobile phones, the internet
and laptop computers Geoff was able to do it
from the bush. Well done!



Club fees now due
Please see Mieke Smits
Or fill out the renewal
form on page 11.



Barry S. detecting near some diggings at Homebush.

July Outing: Tarnagulla

Friday 13th to Tues. 17th July.

August Outing: Heathcote

Friday 10th to Tues. 14th October

NOTE: NO DOGS AT THIS CAMP

(Vic Parks Regulation)

THIS IS A BUSH CAMP. BYO water, power and toilet, strictly observe park and fire regulations. Dogs must be on leash and under constant supervision.

No unattended fires.

FILL IN ALL HOLES, take your rubbish home and carry a valid MINERS RIGHT at all times.

Under current Government requirements fossickers should be trained in first aid; they should carry water, a mobile phone, a list of contacts in case of emergency and a basic first aid kit; any incident or injury should be reported to a Committee Member ASAP.

THIS IS A BUSH CAMP. BYO water, power and toilet, strictly observe park and fire regulations. No Dogs allowed at this camp. No unattended fires.

FILL IN ALL HOLES, take your rubbish home and carry a valid MINERS RIGHT at all times.



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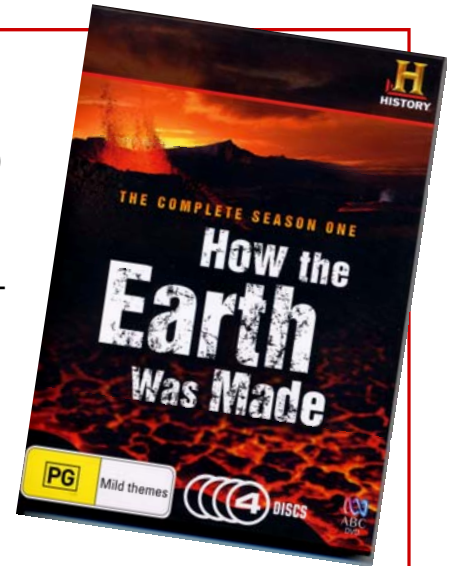
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