

# LASSETER'S BONES (G)

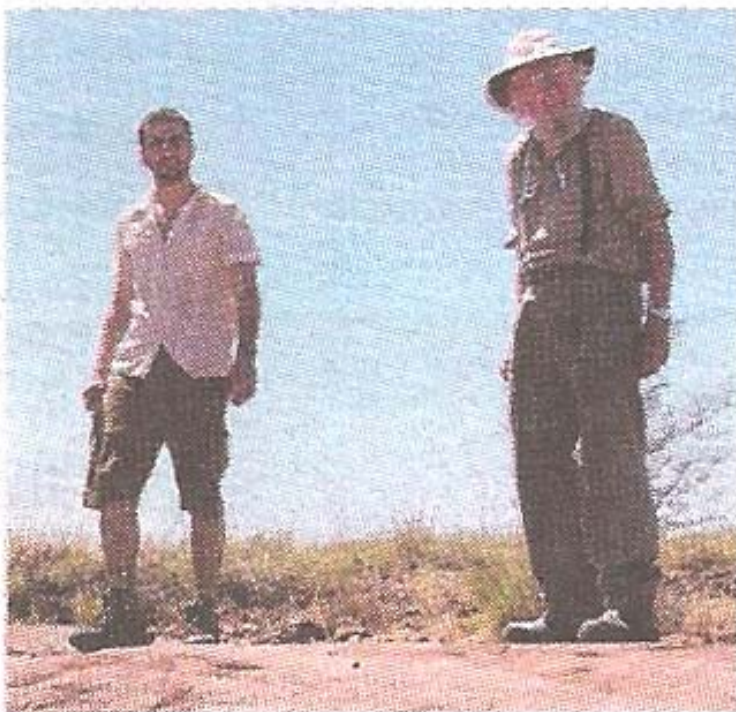
★★★★☆

**Director:** Luke Walker

**Verdict:** Documentary digs up a great piece of Aussie folklore

IN 1930, a search party ventured into the rugged, dry heart of Central Australia near the MacDonnell Ranges. A man named Harold Lasseter claimed to have discovered a gold reef there years earlier and was certain he could locate it again.

The expedition was a disaster; Lasseter's remains were eventually found in a cave, along with his diary, in which he claimed, tantalisingly, to have relocated the gold. Lasseter's fate passed into folklore, inspiring books, songs



and documentaries. Despite countless subsequent searches, the gold remained unfound.

One person who has never given up hope is Lasseter's son Bob, who has been scouring the desert since the 1960s. In *Lasseter's Bones*, filmmaker Luke Walker joins the white-haired 85-year-old on some of his recent expeditions. The old man's dogged belief in the father he lost at age five is

poignant: this isn't just a man's search for an Aussie El Dorado, but for a connection with his long-absent dad.

Walker, a Melbourne filmmaker, interviews relatives of the key players and pieces together the details of Harry Lasseter's life. He uncovers a man of questionable truthfulness and of restless intelligence: Lasseter apparently predicted the shape of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Japan's intentions in World War II, decades ahead of time.

Walker follows the twists and turns exhaustively. The more he uncovers, the murkier Lasseter's story gets. With its fatal expeditions, lost gold and tall tales, this is a film that fans of Australiana will relish.

Opens Thursday

NICK DENT