Make your own billy can

What you will need to make a billy can:

- Empty tin can (with lid safely removed)
- Metal wire coat hanger (not plastic coated)
- Drill with metal drill-bit (size 4)
- Pliers (with in-built wire cutter)

What to do:

Step 1: Ensure the can is empty, the lid is removed, there are no jagged edges, and any labels have been removed from the outside.

Step 2: Drill a hole at either side of the can’s top. This should be done by an adult.

Step 3: Unwind the coat-hanger and, using the pliers, straighten the wire.

Step 4: Push one end of the wire through one of the holes you have made. Using the pliers make a loop at the end of the wire to stop it from falling back out of the hole.

Step 5: Bend the wire into the shape of a loop handle and cut-off any excess length. Then push the loose end of the wire through the other hole at the top of the can and close it with a loop. You should now have a basic billy can.

*Inquiry/discussion question examples on next page*
Inquiry/ discussion question examples

- Imagine you are a miner on the goldfields - What would you have used to assemble your billy-can and how?
  - tools and technologies available to the people living on the goldfields
  - The resourcefulness and make-do approaches to life on the goldfields

- What types of canned food might have the miners been eating? Where would it have come from, how and why?
  - Diet and cooking on the goldfields
  - International imports and exotic goods, local produce, merchants and general stores at the goldfields

- Why do we start to see the billy can develop into the AHM004183 version? Identify the changes and why (functional and design improvements)?