

Tower St Times June 2026



golden gift weekend!

Town Hall
Meeting
Tuesday June 30
6pm
Bowls Club



gwalia gold zone

The 2026 Golden Gift hosted the first Gwalia Gold Zone and it proved very popular with the kids. The State Hotel was opened for tours and there were plenty of other things to see and do in our historic ghost town village.

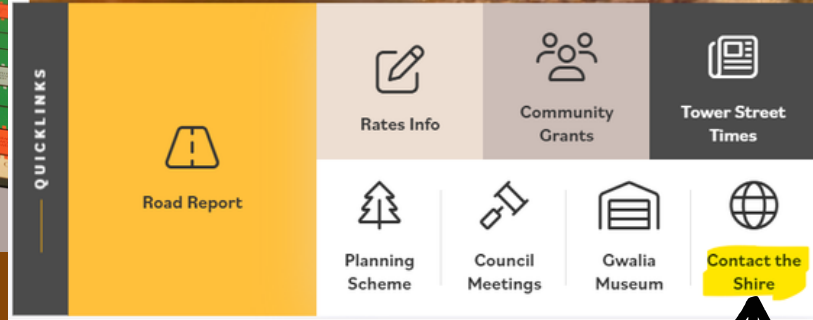
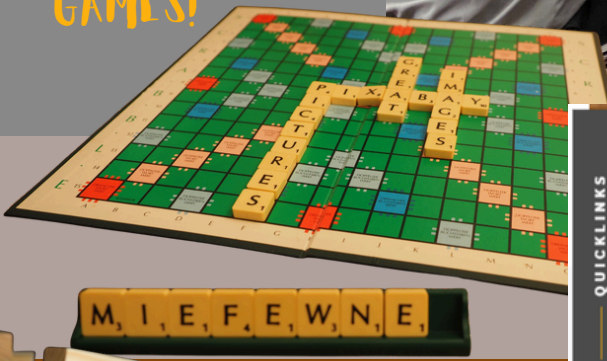


PHOTOS INSIDE

GAMES NIGHT AT THE LIBRARY!

THURSDAY
JULY 17 FROM 6PM

BRING YOUR FRIENDS
AND YOUR FAVOURITE
GAMES!



What's new! Shire of Leonora Contact Portal

Members of the community can now make contact via our brand new online Contact Portal. A link has been added to the Shire website and can be found either through the address: <https://www.leonora.wa.gov.au/contact.aspx> or by going to our website and selecting "Contact the Shire" on the quick links (See above screenshot)



*Senior's
Morning Tea
Tuesday July 7
10am
Leonora Library*



Containers for change baskets are being installed in the main street, this has been a collaboration with Containers for Change and the Shire of Leonora. The basket contents are for anyone to empty and take for recycling at the Return-it receipt point on Tower St.



Shire of
Leonora

Meet a Leo Local!



Meet Patricia Matthews Peacock of Bone and Breath

For those who know her, she's simply "Prat." She doesn't particularly enjoy talking about herself, but she is passionate about helping people better understand their bodies and the messages they send.

Prat believes the **human body is remarkably intelligent**. In her view, pain is not something to ignore but a signal that something needs attention. She often compares it to caring for a car.

"If your car isn't running properly, you book it in for a service, change the oil, replace worn tyres, and keep everything working as it should. **Why don't we give ourselves the same care?**" she asks.

Over the years, Prat has heard every reason for putting personal wellbeing on hold: "I haven't got time", "I can't afford it", "I can't be bothered", "I'm too tired after work", "There's nothing really wrong with me, just a little pain here and there".

Through her work at Bone and Breath, Prat encourages people to listen more closely to what their bodies are trying to tell them.

Understanding Bone and Breath

Prat's approach draws on **traditional Māori healing practices** and focuses on the relationship between the body's structure, movement, breath, and overall wellbeing.

Mirimiri is a Māori healing practice that focuses on the bones—the framework that supports the entire body.

Patricia explains that falls, sporting injuries, and physical impacts can sometimes leave bones feeling "stuck" or restricted, affecting posture, balance, and movement. During a session, she works hands-on to assess the body's structure and identify areas where movement may be limited.

Her goal is to encourage the body back toward balance, helping improve posture, ease discomfort, and support freer movement.

Romiromi is a traditional Māori form of massage that combines deep tissue techniques with an understanding of the body's physical and energetic systems.

Prat describes it as a deeply restorative treatment that works through both muscle and skeletal structures. Sessions incorporate heated tools and are designed to help release tension, encourage relaxation, and support overall wellbeing.

She often sees Mirimiri and Romiromi as complementary practices, with one focusing on structural alignment and the other supporting the muscles, breath, and broader sense of balance.

Haumiri is a gentle, intuitive, and non-invasive treatment focused on the hands and feet—parts of the body Prat believes are often overlooked despite their importance in daily life.

The practice is intended to ease tension, support circulation, encourage emotional balance, and create a deep sense of calm and inner ease

For Prat, the hands and feet are our primary points of connection with the world around us, deserving care and attention just as much as any other part of the body.

A Philosophy of Listening

At the heart of Prat's work is a simple belief: the body is constantly communicating with us. By learning to listen, we can better understand what it needs and support our own wellbeing before small problems become larger ones.

Rather than viewing discomfort as something to push through, Prat encourages people to see it as valuable information—a reminder to slow down, pay attention, and care for themselves with the same consideration they would give anything else they value.

A Golden Weekend for Leonora

The **2026 Leonora Golden Gift** delivered another fantastic WA Day long weekend, bringing together **athletics, entertainment, history, gold mining and community spirit** in the heart of the Goldfields.

The **Opening Night of the Leonora Art Prize** kicked off the weekend and attracted art lovers from across the region, showcasing an impressive collection of art and celebrating local and visiting talent. The annual **auction at the Whitehouse Hotel once again proved very popular, raising over \$17,000**. Thank you goes to all donors and volunteers for your kindness and support over the years.

Saturday saw the **Bowls Tournament** commence, which was a busy event with teams travelling long distances to compete.

The **Gwalia Gold Zone was a hit**, with market stalls, the State Hotel, Hoover House brunch, kids face painting and entertainment, tours of the museum and a demonstration by Genesis all proving popular, however the **gold detecting and panning** hosted by Pirates was a new event that was a great success.

The **steel cap boot races and relay** as always was well received, and several locals got involved and participated in the events.

A major highlight of the weekend was the performance by **Australian country music legend Troy Cassar-Daley**, who entertained the crowd along with The Forgotten Years and a Boy Named Cash. The celebrations included a **spectacular fireworks display** that lit up the sky across town.

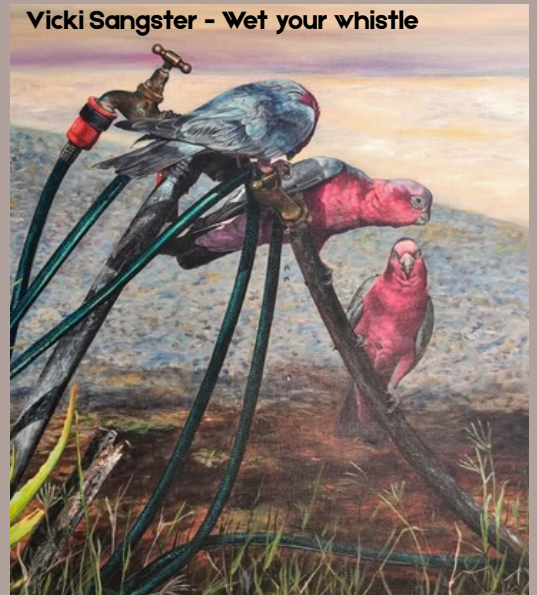
On Sunday crowds lined Tower St to watch **Australia's richest mile race**, with elite athletes competing in our very own town. In the Men's Elite Mile, Olympian Peter Bol claimed victory, while Klara Dess took out the Women's Elite Mile title. There were plenty of races for locals and visitors to enter with great prize money up for grabs. The **ERT Challenge** took place in the afternoon, and markets stalls lined the street for the day.

Thank you very much to all of our sponsors and supporters, and for all of those who travelled to join us for the weekend. Special thanks also to **Chelsea Taylor and the airport crew** for handling the flights that allowed so many of our participants to get here.





Shire of Leonora



Vicki Sangster - Wet your whistle

Congratulations to all involved in another outstanding Leonora Art Prize. The opening night was a beautiful evening of music, food, wine and spectacular artwork.

The committee should be proud of their accomplishment and thanks goes to all volunteers for their time and efforts, as well as to all artists for sharing their talents.

The 2026 People's Choice Award resulted in a draw:

Georgia Reeve - 999 Reasons To Keep Digging

Vicki Sangster - Wet your whistle

2026 Overall Winner - Tin Horse Highway - Vicki Sangster



Georgia Reeve - 999 Reasons To Keep Digging





Shire of
Leonora





Shire of
Leonora



The **Golden Gift Auction at the Whitehouse Hotel** was another huge success, with **Terry and Mick Demasson auctioning items to raise \$17,000** towards next year's event. It was a great night, following on from the Arts Award opening evening and a fantastic way to kick off the Golden Gift long weekend. **Well done and thank you** to everyone involved for your support and generosity.











Updates from Shire of Leonora Council Meeting 16 June

- Several students from the school attended the Council Meeting and asked some pertinent points on services for children under 10 - see next page for details.
- The Council is seeking community comment on the permanent closure of the Race Course Rd. This will be posted on the shire website. Any comments received will be considered by Council after the 35 day advertising period.
- Council resolved to purchase a new rubbish truck as the old one is past its useful life. A provision was also made to do some work on the Old Agnew Road to harden some of the creek crossings on the southern end of the road.
- The Shire is pleased to announce it will continue its association with the Stephen Michael Foundation. This collaboration is great for the youth in Leonora and has seen some great outcomes.
- The first item to be purchased from the Partnership Agreement with Genesis was agreed to by Council. This will see the purchase of a BBQ trailer for use by community groups. The partnership steering committee will hold its next meeting in coming weeks.
- Next meeting July 21

Other Council Updates:

The grader is currently on the Old Laverton Rd, and from there will move onto the Mt Ida Rd. The unsealed roads have had considerable rain with more rain expected over the next week. Please monitor the road report and adhere to road closures and signage.

Gravel road signage will start to be replaced as required. New signage for waste disposal will be getting erected at the rubbish tip shortly, please dispose of all waste in correct placements.

Council Meeting June 16 continued:

Council members had the pleasure of hearing from **three of Leonora's youngest community leaders, Nate, Zach and Kyya (aged 8, 9 and 9)**, who attended the Council Meeting to present an idea they had developed themselves.

Their question to Council was simple.

"Would the Council be able to provide a Games Corner and Tutoring Centre for kids in Leonora?"

The idea was entirely their own, and they spoke about why they thought it could benefit the community.

They explained that children under 10 are not yet able to attend the Youth Centre, and that younger children do not always have many places to go after school. **In their words, they thought it would be good to have somewhere safe where kids can learn, play and spend time with their friends.**

The children then shared their vision for a colourful, space-themed Games Corner, similar to Timezone, with arcade-style games, decorations, prizes and a fun atmosphere. **They also suggested that the space could include computers for homework, tutoring and gaming.**

A key part of their idea was supporting children with schoolwork. They spoke about creating a Homework Club or tutoring space where **children could get extra help, build confidence and feel encouraged.** They also suggested that children who do well in tutoring could earn rewards, such as vouchers for arcade time, so that learning feels fun and encouraging.

What made the presentation especially impressive was the level of thought they had put into the idea.

They considered possible locations, including the old pizza place or the old CRC building, as well as opening days, entry costs, snacks and drinks, vending machines, prizes and ways the centre could help cover some of its own costs. They even thought about a fenced area for dogs that may follow their owners, so pets could stay safe while people were inside.

The children acknowledged that not every part of their idea may work exactly as imagined, but they wanted to share it with Council because they care about Leonora and want it to be a fun place for everyone.

Council was delighted by the presentation and impressed by the creativity, confidence and care shown by the children. Their idea was a wonderful reminder that community-minded thinking can come from people of any age.

Council encourages community members, young and old, to continue sharing ideas that help shape Leonora into an even better place to live, learn, play and grow.



Shire of
Leonora



2026 Northern Goldfields Junior Art Prize

Free
entry!

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Prizes!

Open to children living in Leonora, Menzies, Laverton,
Leinster, and Wiluna across three age groups:

• 4-6 years • 7-9 years • 10-12years •

No theme, create whatever you'd like!

It could be about your favourite toy, movie,
book, or place to go out bush

Entries close 30 June
Works due by 30 July



2026 Northern Goldfields Junior Art Prize - Call for entries!

Application forms online: inlandartprize.com/nothern-goldfields-junior-art-prize or at the Leonora Library and Visitor's Centre.

Entries close 30 June 2026, with completed works to be delivered to one of our designated drop points by 30 July 2026.

Judging will be carried out on the morning of Saturday 8 August, with all entrants and their families welcome to attend the official opening at 12:30pm the same day.

Works will be on display at Leonora Visitor Centre from 8 to 14 August.

PUBLIC NOTICE: Structures and Equipment in the Vicinity of the Airport

The Shire advises all property owners, contractors, developers and businesses operating within the vicinity of the airport that any proposed structure, equipment or activity that may affect aviation safety must be reported to the Shire prior to installation or erection. This includes, but is not limited to: Cranes and lifting equipment, antennas and aerials, towers and masts, temporary or permanent structures, any other obstacle that may penetrate or approach prescribed height limitations around the airport.

Notification must be provided to the Shire before any such structure or equipment is erected or installed. This will allow an assessment to be undertaken to determine whether the proposal may impact airport operations or aviation safety requirements. Where necessary, the Shire will liaise with the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) and arrange for the issue of a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) to advise pilots of any potential hazards.

Failure to notify the Shire prior to installation may result in delays, additional compliance requirements or the removal of unauthorised structures.

For further information or to discuss a proposed installation, please contact the Shire office.



A Glimpse into our Golden Past



Mine gives Bill his pot of gold

By Frazer Guild

The name Harbour Lights, brings a shine to the eyes of Leonora prospector Bill Johnson. It's a glow which says gold.

Harbour Lights is his gold mining lease and it's smack in the middle of a rich prospect which has sent exploration companies' shares rocketing.

Now Bill (59) is selling the lease for his own pot of gold.

Esso, Carr Boyd and Aztec Exploration are planning to mine the area just a kilometre north of the town. A report released last week indicated rich deposits and they need Bill's Harbour Lights.

It means that 40 years of prospecting have paid off.

But you'll hear no millionaire talk from Bill.

"I'm not one of the greedy ones," he said. "It wouldn't be right to say how much money is involved, but after 40 years of prospecting I'm more than happy."

Bill knows how rich the area is. He and his son Robert (25) have been working the mine at weekends and last year won gold worth \$45,000.

It's not easy instant wealth. Harbour Lights has been a story of work, worry and a once-wasted op-

portunity for the Johnson family.

Bill was first involved with the mine in 1937, working in the treatment plant and battery when it was owned by Central Goldmines.

Then, in 1947, he and a partner took up the lease but made only one crushing before allowing it to lapse.

When the mineral boom sent mining shares rocketing in 1969, Bill, his brother-in-law and three other partners took up the lease once more.

"We were offered \$50,000 cash and a large package of shares to sell, but a decision was made not to sell," he said. "Those 50 cent shares went to \$4.50 in 18 months.

"I thought it was a mistake not to sell and I got out of it then."

Then five years ago Bill and Robert took up the lease again to work the mine part-time.

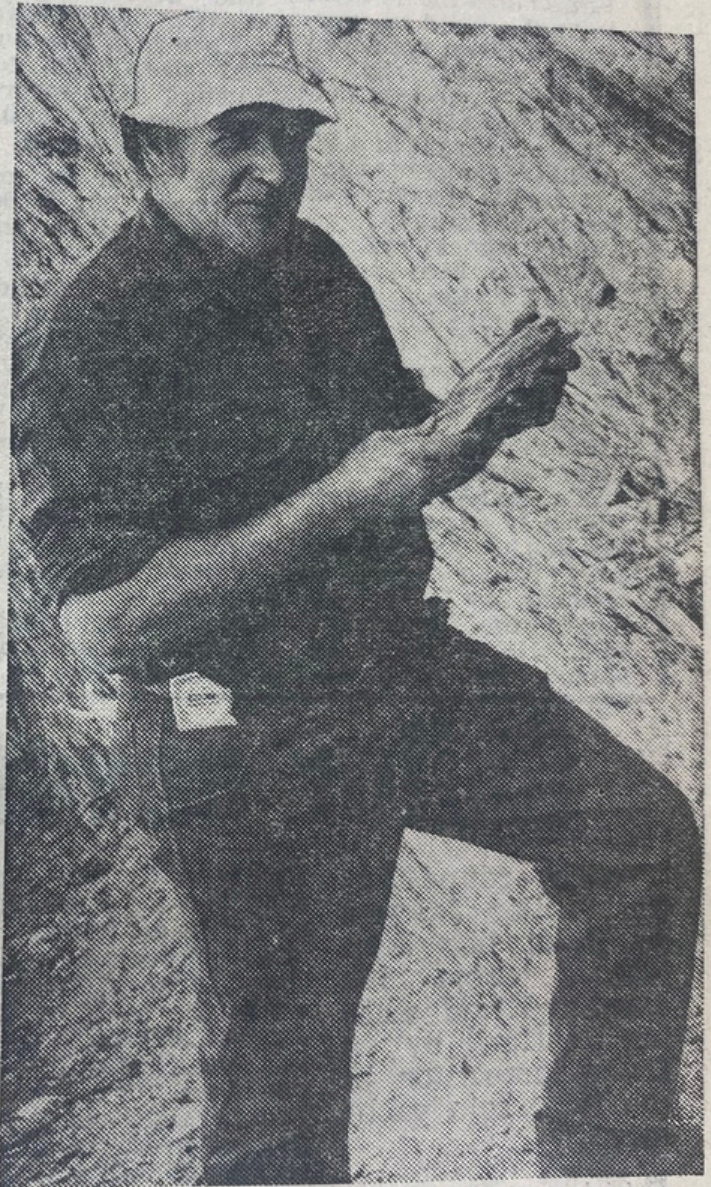
When Esso pegged surrounding leases they knew they had struck pay dirt.

Now Bill has quit his job as a foreman at the Leonora Shire depot to concentrate on gold.

He owns another mine, Grey Lode, near Harbour Lights.

And there's something else which will make a story one day,

he says with that glint in his eye. But he prefers to keep the big boys guessing, just for a while.



Bill Johnson, owner of Harbour Lights gold mine at Leonora, on which Carr-Boyd and Esso have an option. The ore he is holding yielded 11.3 grams a tonne of gold.