



TOWER ST TIMES JAN/FEB 26

IN THIS EDITION:

- YOUR SAY ON OUR OVAL AND HOUSING IN LEONORA
- TOWN HALL MEETING 29/1
- CARDS & GAMES NIGHT 12/3
- SATURDAY MORNING LIBRARY 14/3
- COUNCIL MEETING/ ANNUAL ELECTOR'S MEETING 17/2

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY MARCH 17

LEONORA GARDENING CLUB

MEETS EVERY 1-2 MONTHS
VISIT FACEBOOK
"LEONORA GRAPEVINE",
PAULINE WEST, OR VISIT
THE LIBRARY FOR DETAILS

LOCAL HERO BACK AT THE WINTER OLYMPICS!

From the red dirt here in Leonora to the ice tracks of Europe, local girl Kiara Reddingius is heading to her second Winter Olympics.

After growing up in Leonora Kiara started serious athletics at around age 21 and quickly made her mark in the heptathlon — a demanding seven-event discipline that tests speed, strength and versatility. She became a three-time Australian national silver medallist in the heptathlon and competed in state and regional championships before shifting her focus to winter sport. Now competing as a brakewoman in the two-woman bobsleigh, Kiara will represent Australia again at the 2026 Winter Olympics in Italy. Over four heats, she and her team mate will race against the world's best.

For Leonora, this is a proud moment. Competing in the Winter Olympics reflects years of hard work that began here in Leonora and now carry her onto the world stage

Senior's Morning Tea

Tuesday 24 Feb
10.30am at the
Library



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MILANO CORTINA 2026



Zucchini Pickles Recipe

- 1 kg zucchini
- 2 tbs salt
- 2 cup sugar
- 2 cup white vinegar
- 1 brown onion large
- 2 tbs cornflour
- 2 tsp ground turmeric
- 2 tsp mustard powder
- 1 tsp curry powder



Grate zucchini into a container, add salt and cover with water. Soak for 15 minutes.

Drain and squeeze excess moisture out of zucchini and place in a saucepan.

Add finely chopped brown onion, sugar and 1 cup vinegar.

Add dry ingredients to the other cup of white vinegar and mix.

Add to saucepan and boil slowly for 30 minutes until thickened.

Bottle in clean, sterilised jars.



Have Your Say on Oval Upgrades!

We want your input on your oval.

The library and the CRC both have a large poster for collecting feedback on potential upgrades for our town's oval.

Proposed upgrades are listed on the poster and if you support an idea please add a tally mark in the column on the right.

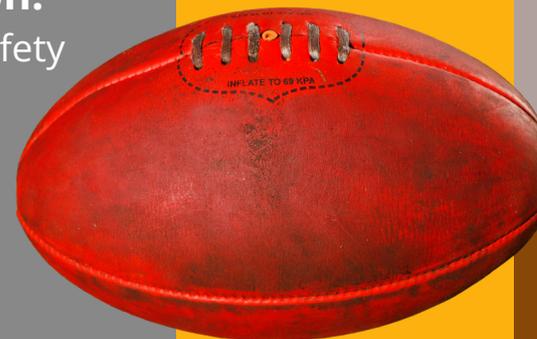
Have another idea? Write it on a post-it note and place it on the poster.

The Shire will collect these posters on 28 February 2026.



Some ideas we need your feedback on!

- LED lighting for night games and increased safety
- Upgraded irrigation
- New path connecting with town
- Building upgrades
- Change facility upgrades
- Indoor golf simulator
- Running track and exercise equipment
- Courts for basketball, netball, tennis



Shire of
Leonora

Community Town Hall Meeting – Thursday 29 January

Approximately 30 local residents attended the Town Hall meeting held at 6pm on Thursday 29 January, alongside representatives from the **Shire of Leonora and Genesis**.

Genesis representatives **Paul Kline (PK) and Lee Stevens** opened the evening with a company update. They advised that **Genesis now employs around 750 staff**, with several recent role changes within the organisation. Key staff members were introduced to those in attendance.

Maps were presented outlining upcoming **Tower Hill works**, which will impact residents in two stages commencing mid-2026. An important local update included the planned removal of the **railway line** in 2026. The **state battery** will also be relocated to Gwalia around mid-2026, with remediation works to clean up sands in the area. **Genesis also outlined its Vanguard environmental monitoring system**, which records and monitors **noise, dust and vibration**. A new community webpage is currently being developed to improve interaction and communication with local residents.

The **Shire of Leonora presentation** followed, delivered by **CEO Ty Matson and Kate Mills**. Discussion focused on community consultation regarding **proposed oval upgrades and housing availability**. Surveys have been created to gather local feedback, with links available in this newsletter or at the Shire offices.

An update was provided on **Leonora Airport**, with **runway works scheduled for later in 2026**. Up to 10 Boeing 737 aircraft per week are expected to begin flying in soon for local mine charters, and the current runway is not considered fit for this level of traffic. Terminal upgrades are also planned for the future.

Regarding the **proposed bypass road**, Main Roads will now take over the project at an estimated cost of \$20–25 million. The final alignment is expected to be determined within two years. This will delay planning for the **Eastern Precinct**, as projects including the rifle/shooting range, racecourse and other features cannot proceed until the bypass location is confirmed.

Ty also advised that a new online customer request system is being developed to improve communication between residents and the Shire.

During question time, concerns were raised about **stray dogs**. Ty advised that the **Shire ranger is aware** of problem dogs and is working with owners to address the issue. A question was also asked regarding Genesis' annual \$1 million community donation and how to apply for grants. Further information will be provided.

Applications are reviewed by a panel comprising three Genesis representatives and three Shire representatives.

In response to a question about the **Barnes Federal Theatre**, Ty advised that while restoration is a significant project and remains on the Shire's radar, it is not currently a priority. He also noted that the **Freemasons Hall** will soon be available for use.

The meeting provided a valuable opportunity for updates and community discussion, with both Genesis and the Shire encouraging ongoing feedback from residents.



Leonora Housing and Business Development Survey



Leonora Housing and Business Development Survey

To advocate and drive change for the community, the Shire are seeking your feedback on housing, light industrial and commercial development.

To provide your input, please use the QR code or follow the link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/XYurmsfedi?origin=QRCode>



Shire of
Leonora



**Saturday Morning
Library
14 March 10am-1pm**

Cards & Games Night at the Library – Thursday 12 March

Join us at the local library on Thursday 12 March at 6.30pm for a social Cards & Games Night!

Players of all experience levels are encouraged to attend. Feel free to bring along your favourite deck or game, or simply come along and join in.

Light refreshments and soft drinks will be provided. This is a relaxed evening, and attendees may bring their own drinks if they wish.

We look forward to seeing you there for an evening of good company and great games!



FREE VET CLINIC IS BACK!

Veterinary students from Murdoch University, under the guidance of a Senior veterinarian, will be travelling to the Shire of Leonora to perform sterilisations, pet checks and microchips for dogs and cats registered in the Shire of Leonora.

April 11-13, Leonora Oval, Biggs Avenue

Vaccinations are free for pets being sterilised.

\$50 for non Concession card holders

Sterilisations free of charge to Leonora and Leinster residents.

Registration fees to be paid on the day prior to appointment.

Phone (08) 9037 6044 to register interest - limited places available



Cash for Cans Update

Waalitj will not be continuing to run the Leonora Can and Bottle recycling program.

'Return-It' will commence operations soon.

Updates will be shared as soon as possible.

Shire of Leonora – February Council and Annual Elector's Meeting Outcomes

At its Ordinary Council Meeting held on 17 February 2026, Council considered a range of governance, operational and financial matters.

Key decisions included appointing Gary Gaffney as Acting CEO during the CEO's leave period, approving exploration drilling in Yundamindra subject to strict heritage protection conditions, executing a Deed of Termination for the Containers for Change agreement, and endorsing a five-year Memorandum of Understanding with Main Roads WA for incident management support.

Council also reviewed monthly financial statements, capital works progress, reserve balances and budget amendments, noting the Shire's continued strong financial position. For full details, please refer to the official Council minutes available on the Shire's website.

SHIRE OF LEONORA CEO TY MATSON WILL BE TAKING LEAVE FOR APPROX ONE MONTH FROM THE END OF APRIL. GARY GAFFNEY WILL BE ACTING CEO FOR THIS DURATION.

Shire of Leonora's Community Grants Program

Did you know the Shire offers three funding streams to support our community?

Community Grants Round – Competitive funding for community and sporting organisations in Leonora and Leinster, with grants available up to \$10,000, from a total pool of \$60,000

CEO Support Grants – Up to \$1,000 for individuals or small community events, with a total pool of \$20,000

Annual Programs & Events – Ongoing support for major community programs and events that deliver real benefit to Leonora

For more information, or to apply, visit our website!



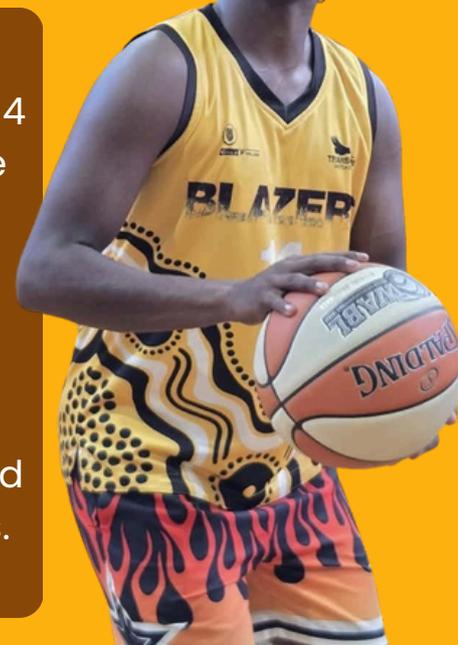
Shire of
Leonora



Blazers annual presentation night!

The Blazers held their annual awards night on Saturday 14 Feb, bringing players and families together to celebrate the season. The Rec Centre was transformed with beautiful decorations and team colours throughout. Awards were presented across a range of categories, recognising the efforts of players during the year. Well done to everyone who took part.

A big thank you to Rene, Shelley and all those who helped organise the evening and make it such a great success.



COMING SOON: ONLINE CUSTOMER REQUEST SYSTEM

THE SHIRE OF LEONORA WILL SOON BE LAUNCHING A NEW ONLINE CUSTOMER REQUEST SYSTEM VIA OUR WEBSITE.

THIS SIMPLE AND CONVENIENT PLATFORM WILL ALLOW COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO LODGE SERVICE REQUESTS AND REPORT ISSUES ONLINE AT ANY TIME.

MORE INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON — WATCH THIS SPACE!



Leonora History: The Millar family

The Millar family were well known photographers in the Goldfields in the early years of the gold rush. William Roy Millar moved to Coolgardie from Victoria in 1894, two years after gold was found. He called himself the “Pioneer Photographer”. Roy took the famous photo of the prospector pushing his barrow, which features at the museum.

Two of Roy’s sons also entered the photography trade. Sadly, the eldest of the two, James Haig Roy Millar, born in Wangaratta in 1876, died young in 1903 and is buried in the Leonora Cemetery.

James was due to be married to a Leonora girl two weeks after he died of diphtheria at Kookynie. His poor father Roy, who had buried his wife Matilda two years earlier in Kalgoorlie, was then trying to nurse Reginald through the same highly contagious bacterial disease that killed James. Reginald, who had been working as a photographer at Sir Samuel, north of Leonora, pulled through. He started a stationers and newsagency in Leonora and his father operated his photography business from the same premises. Later, he and his father bought Desdemona Station, just south of Leonora in 1928, although they kept their house in Leonora.

Sadly, the Great Depression started soon after, along with a seven-year drought. Reginald was Chairman of the Leonora Roads Board for thirteen years and took an active part in the community of Leonora.

The plaque below James’s headstone remembers his younger brother Reginald Blythe Millar, born in 1879 and died at Desdemona Station in 1938. Three years after Reginald died, Desdemona was sold to Alan Finlayson in 1941. A year later Roy Millar himself died, sadly predeceased by his wife Matilda and four of their six children.

Despite all the trials and tribulations of the times they lived in, the family were all held in high regard by family, friends and locals. They did a lot for the bush communities they lived in as well as making a fabulous photographic record of the people who lived and worked in the Goldfields communities in the early days.

