

Gwalia Newsletter

Chairperson's Report

As always it has been an active time since the last newsletter was circulated. The Shire of Leonora received Lotterywest Conserving Heritage Grants for three different projects - conservation work to five Gwalia Cottages, work on the Sons of Gwalia Headframe and a report on Barnes' Federal Theatre.

A grant for content development and research for stage one of the Leonora Heritage Trail was received from the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal.

Work to the Leonora Tram is progressing well and we will have more on the tram in the next edition.

External work to the vintage vehicle shed is nearing completion and work on the interior will start shortly.

In August Anne Skinner presented a talk titled Goldfields to Battlefields - Stories behind the Sons of Gwalia Honour Roll 1914-1918.

Public Programs to engage the local community and visitors are becoming popular. On 21 September a Victorian Afternoon Tea will be held in the garden at Hoover House.



Ladies paying croquet on the lawn of the Sons of Gwalia Mine Manger's House was very popular. This photo was taken in c1901.

The Gwalia Reference Group is now known as the *Gwalia Leonora Reference Group (GLRG)* and new terms of reference were developed to include heritage issues relating to Leonora. We are also pleased to welcome Boyd Sprigg as a new member of the Reference Group.

Elaine Labuschagne has been responsible for compiling the Gwalia newsletter since July last year and we continue to receive positive feedback about this publication.

Matt Taylor
Chairperson:
Gwalia Reference Group

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Leonora community members Denise and Michael Lorentz inspire others by dedicating much of their spare time restoring and preserving the old Station Master's House which is a heritage listed building.

Hoover House B&B had a record month in July with ninety guests staying overnight. Gail and Gary Ross continue to deliver an excellent service.



The Leonora Tram before work started.

Lotterywest Funding for Projects

Elaine Labuschagne

The Shire of Leonora has been very fortunate in receiving a number of grants for heritage projects at Gwalia and in Leonora.

In the Lotterywest Conserving Cultural Heritage Grant round, funding was received for conservation work to five cottages at Gwalia - Major's Boarding House, Burglar Bill's, the Shift Boss' House, Function House and the Unnamed Camp.



Jim Epis, CEO Shire of Leonora and Elaine Labuschagne Manager Economics & Heritage Services in front of Burglar Bill's cottage.

The funding will help to make the cottages watertight and secure. Work will include roof repairs, stabilise the walls, replace or repair windows and doors.

This essential work will prevent further damage to the places and protect the interiors until such time as more funds can be secured to do the necessary work on the inside of the cottages, such as replacing the floor boards, repairing interior walls etc.

Major's Boarding house is the place that needs the most work. The roof needs to be replaced, the walls secured, the collapsed chimney rebuilt and the building made watertight.

Funding has also been received for work to the Sons of Gwalia headframe designed by Herbert Hoover in 1898. This is the last remaining timber incline headframe remaining in the country, making the conservation work even more important.

A report on Barnes' Federal Theatre will be prepared to determine the scope of work required. Brothers David and Philip Barnes established the Leonora Hotel in 1896. Work on the hotel's large adjoining hall, known as Barnes' Federal Theatre, started in May 1899 and together with the reconstructed brick and stone Leonora Hotel, opened in April 1901. Barnes' Federal Hall became the focus of regular community and social activities for Gwalia and Leonora residents.

The Leonora Hotel was demolished in 1927 and the Leonora Road Board purchased Barnes' Federal Theatre for use as a community hall. It was entered in the Western Australia's State Register of Heritage Places In 2006.



Barnes' Federal Theatre in Tower Street.

We will keep you informed on progress of all the projects over the next year.

FRRR Funding for Leonora Heritage Trail

Elaine Labuschagne



Kim Hewson, Robyn Horner, Elaine Labuschagne and Rikki Clarke on 28 August 2014.

The Shire received funding from the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR) in the Culture, Arts, Tourism and Community Heritage (CATCH) Program to prepare the concept plan and do research for the Heritage Trail in Leonora. This will be stage one of the project.

Elaine Labuschagne who is managing the Leonora Heritage Trail project arranged for consultants to visit Leonora on 27 and 28 August 2014.

Robyn Horner is conducting research on the buildings to be included in the trail; Kim Hewson, Economic Transitions, is the Tourism Consultant and Rikki Clarke from Creative Spaces is the designer for the interpretive signs for the Trail.

At present, there is no interpretation in Leonora for locals or visitors to learn about the heritage buildings or the history of the town.

The Leonora Heritage Trail will create an understanding and appreciation of the town's cultural heritage.

The heritage trail will consist of thirty interpretive signs installed at identified buildings and sites along Tower Street (the main street of Leonora) and in Gwalia Street (directly east of the main street).

The cultural heritage of the town will be highlighted through the sharing of the stories specific to individual houses, buildings and sites and particular community members associated with these places.

The Leonora community has been very supportive and willing to share their stories about Leonora while we visited some of the sites on the trail.

The Trail will start at the Leonora Visitor Centre with an introduction and orientation panel. The town will be navigated by following the interpretive signs or using the online map. The interactive online map will be similar to the Gwalia Map launched in February 2014.

The online map and signage will provide the visitor the opportunity to explore the buildings and sites at their leisure while learning about the architecture, history and stories of the people who once lived or worked in these places.

Improving the visitor experience by offering more heritage products will keep the visitors longer in town and contribute to the sustainability of the town and community through the provision of accommodation, fuel and food services. The Trail will also navigate visitors to local shops and invite them to enter with a potential economic spin-off to the occupiers of the premises.



Some of the historic buildings along Tower Street.



Victorian Afternoon Tea

Date: 21 September 2014

Time: 2pm

Venue: Hoover House, Gwalia

Guest speaker: Wendy Duncan, MLA

Cost: \$15.00

Only 30 tickets available

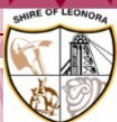
Contact Elaine to buy a ticket

Phone: 0437 132 284

Email: mehs@leonora.wa.gov.au

Ladies come and enjoy afternoon tea in the tranquil garden of historic Hoover House. Taste the cakes recreated from the recipes of Blanche Hunter, the cook at the Gwalia State Hotel a century ago.

Enjoy the afternoon while a Curtin Volunteer look after the children.



Goldfields to Battlefields

Anne Skinner

On 12 August 2014 Hoover House presented the ideal setting for Anne Skinner's talk "Goldfields to Battlefields". Anne shared interesting stories of the men who left their families and place of employment at the Sons of Gwalia gold mine to fight in World War 1.



Anne Skinner (sitting first from left) and guests at her talk.

She focused on six of the eighty-five men from Gwalia who participated in World War 1, 1914 to 1918. Twenty-six of these men were never to return and were either killed in action or died of wounds or disease.

Among them was 23-year-old Lieutenant Roy Retchford who saved the life of his Sergeant who was badly injured in a patrol near the German lines in No Man's Land. Lt Retchford was awarded the Military Cross but killed on 3 June 1918 in action at Mont de Merris before he could receive it.

the attack on Bloody Angle. His body was never found and he is commemorated on the Lone Pine Memorial.

Private John Francis Williams was killed by a shell at Pozieres in France on 12 August 1916 and is commemorated on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial.

Private Eric Lyle Burrell was an 18-year-old fitter's apprentice of Leonora who enlisted in the AIF at Blackboy Hill on 25 September 1916.

On 24 April 1918, he was killed by a burst of Machine gun fire in the attack on Villers-Bretonneux and buried in an unmarked grave. He is also commemorated on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial.

Sergeant Thomas John Carr was a 38-year-old Gwalia engine driver when he enlisted on 23 September 1914. He served with the 16th Battalion



Mauvreen Muir and Cheryl Cotterill found the Honour Board interesting recognising local names.

and was mentioned in despatches for his "conspicuous services" in action at Gallipoli. Killed on August 8, his body was never found and he is commemorated on the Lone Pine Memorial.



Julie and John Coulos found Anne's presentation inspiring.

Private Joseph Jenkins was captured along with several other 11th Battalion men in northern France on 15 April 1917. He died of exhaustion and untreated illness in a German prisoner of war camp in northern France on 18 June 1917. He was buried in the Maubeuge-Centre Cemetery in northern France.

.....continued

His army file states there was a “wreath from the town, the public were present and the Protestant Chaplain gave an address at the graveside (and) a party of 16 Roumanians attended”.

The importance of remembering men who offered their lives is even more pertinent over the next few years as Australia commemorates the centenary of World War 1.

Australia had a population of less than five million when war was declared on 4 August 1914. Over the next four years, this nation sent 416,809 men to fight – all of them volunteers. Of these, more than 60,000 were killed and 156,000 wounded, gassed, or taken prisoner.



Kelly Meynell with baby Ella and Erin Fiegert.



Stephen Peacock and Connie Cocksey enjoyed Anne's presentation.

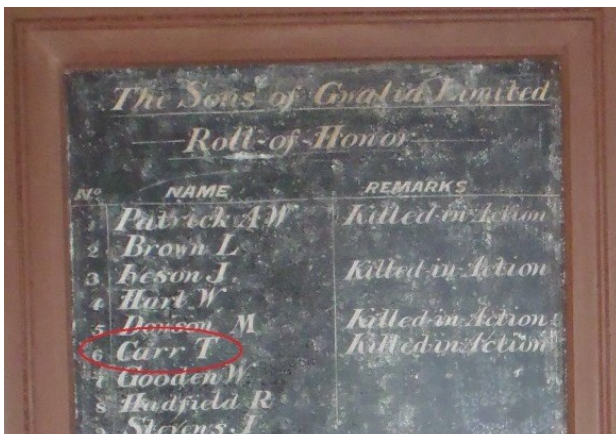
Gwalia's Sgt Carr mentioned in despatches

Anne Skinner

Thomas John Carr farewelled his wife Fanny and son Alexander at their Gwalia home as he left with other miners to enlist at Helena Vale (now Midland) on 23 September 1914.

The 38-year-old Melbourne-born engine driver embarked from Melbourne with the rank of Private aboard HMAT Ceramic on 22 December 1914, bound for the training camps of Egypt.

Private 513 Thomas Carr stormed the beach at Anzac Cove with the rest of 16th Battalion's A Company in the late afternoon of 25 April 1915. He acquitted himself well as a soldier in action and was promoted to Sergeant in the field on 13 May, just a few weeks before he was wounded in the left arm on 10 June.



T. Carr's name is the 6th name on the Sons of Gwalia Honour Board.

Sgt Carr was mentioned in despatches for his “conspicuous services” in action and was killed on August 18. His body was never found and he is commemorated on the Lone Pine Memorial.

He left just a letter and two notebooks which were sent to his wife, who later moved to Kalgoorlie where her address was the Foundry Cafe in Boulder Road.

Fannie received a pension of £52 (\$104) per year, while their son Alexander received £13 (\$26) per year.

Hoover House B&B – Record Numbers

Gail Ross



Hoover House with its lush green lawn.

Hoover House B&B is becoming more and more popular. Numbers have increased with, July being an all-time record of ninety guests for the month.

Don't forget Hoover House when travelling north along the Goldfields Highway or driving up from Kalgoorlie-Boulder for a night or two.

With three rooms (two en-suite) you can bring some friends along and make a weekend of it. There is a BBQ and the dishes are even done for you.



The Blue Room is the most popular to stay in.

So come enjoy the ambience and tranquillity of our oasis in the desert.



The impressive passage in Hoover House.

Vintage Vehicle Shed Update

Work on the 25x15x8 shed is progressing well with the econodeck wall and roof gladding complete.

The roller doors, window and entry door is still to be installed. Work on the interior of the building will also start shortly. When completed the shed will house the Leonora Tram, International Mail Truck and the Hearse.



The south-west corner of the new shed at Gwalia Museum.



Work in progress.

Station Master's House

Michael and Denise Lorentz

In 2013 we became interested in the charming old railway cottage in Leonora which had been for sale for quite a long time. The Station Master's house was built in 1902 in the Federation Bungalow style. The realtor told us that the property was on the Register of Heritage Places which had deterred most of the potential buyers. Undaunted, we decided to make our own inquiries and met with Mr Jim Epis, CEO of Leonora Shire, who gave us good information, sound advice and encouragement.



The Station Master's House shortly after work started. The yard has been cleaned up.

We have started the restoration. We've been cleaning up, sourcing materials and, among other things, we have already rebuilt two walls which were in very poor condition. It all takes time but we will get it finished, particularly with the support we continue to receive from the Shire of Leonora and the Heritage Council.

To anyone thinking about going down the 'Heritage road' we would say, we are pleased that we've done it. There is nothing to be nervous about, just go for it.

We are looking forward living in the old Station Master's House when we have completed the restoration work.

Next, we approached Mr Callum Crofton of the Heritage Council who spent a great deal of time explaining the requirements associated with a heritage order and putting to rest any concerns and misconceptions that we may have had.

We went ahead and made an offer to buy which was accepted and the sale was handled by Mr Joel Gilman for the Heritage Council. Joel, also, could not have been more helpful. For example, when we suggested that the timetable of work to be done may be a little tight Joel considered our requests and changed the Heritage Agreement to suit which makes our task a whole lot easier.



Michael and Denise have dedicated many hours to the restoration of the house.



The south wall was the most deteriorated needed to be repaired and reclad.



Material sourced and work started on the front verandah facing east.

Thank You

Projects at Gwalia would not be possible without the generosity of people who are interested in Gwalia and Leonora and funding bodies who understand the value of preserving heritage places.

The Shire of Leonora and the Gwalia Leonora Reference Group would like to thank the following:

- ◆ Lotterywest Conservation of Cultural Heritage grant. Total funding received \$432,959.
- ◆ Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR) for a grant of \$7,690.
- ◆ Anne Skinner for volunteering her time and travel to come to Leonora for a public talk.
- ◆ The Shire of Leonora funded the refreshments at Anne Skinner's talk.
- ◆ Newsletter contributions from various people.

Friends of Gwalia Membership Due

**Renew your Friends of Gwalia membership
or join as a new member for only \$20,00 per year.
Please contact Gail Ross museum@gwalia.org.au
or call 08 9037 7122**

Newsletter contributions

If you have memories to share, are looking for a past friend or seeking information on something relating to Gwalia or Leonora, we would be pleased to include it in our newsletter. Please forward them to **Elaine Labuschagne, Manager Heritage & Economic Services**, along with any suitable photographs. *We reserve the right to edit or to decline to publish depending on the content.*

*If you have family, friends or colleagues that would like to be included on our Newsletter mailing list, please contact our **Museum Manager Gail Ross**.*

Gwalia Museum + Hoover House B&B

Shire of Leonora

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Friends of Gwalia Museum

Subscription Form

museum@gwalia.org.au

By becoming a Friend of Gwalia Museum you will play an important role the preservation of buildings, machinery, objects, photographs and documents associated with Gwalia, the Sons of Gwalia Mine and the Leonora district.

You will also help Gwalia Museum share fascinating stories associated with these significant items through your support of public programmes and events.

Our mission

Gwalia Museum's mission is to conserve, explore and share the cultural heritage of Gwalia and Leonora. With your support, we can achieve our mission.

Gwalia Museum Collections

Gwalia Museum contains significant collections of buildings and machinery from Gwalia townsite and the Sons of Gwalia Mine, as well as objects, documents and photographs to these and the wider Leonora region covering mining, pastoralism, commercial enterprises and community facilities. With your support, we can continue to collect, conserve and enhance our collections for today's and future generations.

Learning and public events

Through our buildings, exhibitions and displays, public programmes and events, we aim to share the history and heritage of Gwalia and Leonora. With your support, we can continue this work.

As a subscriber, you will receive a quarterly newsletter, updates of important events and the satisfaction of knowing that you are supporting Gwalia Museum.

Funds generated through the Friends of Gwalia will remain separate from other Shire funds and will be used for specific targets set by the Gwalia Reference Group each year. The target for 2014/15 is to assist with conservation work to the Gwalia cottages.

I wish to subscribe to the Friends of Gwalia Museum

Annual Subscription \$20.00 (inc GST)

Other donation \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Title _____

Name _____

Address _____

Suburb _____

State _____ Postcode _____

Home Phone _____

Mobile phone _____

Email _____

I have enclosed a cheque/money order for this amount payable to the Shire of Leonora

OR I wish to pay by credit/debit card

Visa Mastercard

Card Number _____

Name on card _____

Signature _____

Expiry date _____ Today's date _____

Do you require a receipt? yes no

How may you be able to assist Gwalia Museum? (please circle)

Volunteer museum work / Volunteer for activities and events / Other _____

What is your association with Gwalia/Leonora? (Where you lived and/or worked, with dates etc)

