



Eight weeks to go!

The countdown has started for the 50th anniversary of the closure of the Sons of Gwalia Gold Mine on the 28th and 29th September 2013.

Past residents, their families and visitors are all invited to attend the weekend of festivities, to relive the life and times of the town that was once the home of the second largest gold mine in Australia.

Highlights of the event program include; a 60s-themed dinner-dance, an exhibition on the closure of the mine, gold panning and dry blowing demonstrations and a rock drilling competition.

There will also be lots of fun for the kids including old fashioned children's games, that were played in the backyards of Gwalia when the mine flourished.

Why not join a tour of the old Mine Office building which houses the collection. Your tour guides will be Don and Donna Reid, who were instrumental in setting up the museum in the 1970s. There is a limit of ten places on each of the four daily tours, so book early.

Former residents will have the opportunity to catch up with old friends and reminisce about the past. As a visitor, you will have the opportunity to wander through the living ghost town of Gwalia, peek into the cottages and imagine the lives of the people who dwelt in this once thriving community.



*Sons of Gwalia Mine, c 1960
Shire of Leonora Collection*

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IT'S BEEN 50 YEARS

SINCE THE LAST WHISTLE BLEW AT THE SONS OF GWALIA MINE,

COME HELP US REMEMBER

Want to get involved in the 50th?

Contact Tralee Cable on 0408 951186 or email her at Tralee@pmcc.com.au

Old Timers Remember

If you are a past resident or worked at the Sons of Gwalia Mine and would like to share your memories of old mining methods, working conditions, life in Gwalia town and the day the mine shut down and turned a once-thriving community into a ghost town, please contact Tralee.

Gwalia Style Show & Tell

We would also like to hear from you if you have any interesting items, object, photograph or letters relating to the Sons of Gwalia Mine or living at Gwalia.

Market Stalls

A traditional market with art and craft stalls will be a major highlight of the festival. Let us know if you would like to host a market stall.

Volunteers

More volunteers welcome!

If you would like to volunteer a few hours on the Saturday or Sunday, please let Tralee know.

Book Your Dinner

Dance Tickets!



28th September

2013

Contact Gail Ross

museum@gwalia.org.au

0419 958 199

Travel and Accommodation

From Kalgoorlie

The Gwalia Reference Group is organising a 50-seater bus departing Kalgoorlie on Saturday 28th and returning from Leonora on Sunday 29th. A scheduled bus service between Leonora to Gwalia will be included in your ticket price.

Tickets will go on sale shortly!

From Perth

We would like to gauge the interest for a special chartered flight, departing from Perth at 10am on the 28th September and return from Leonora the 29th at 2pm.

Please let us know if you are interested!

If you need information on travel and accommodation for the weekend contact

Gail Ross on 0419 958199 or museum@gwalia.org.au



Departure from the Railway Station in December 1963,
after the closure of the Mine.
Shire of Leonora Collection

Successful Lotterywest Grant

The Shire of Leonora's commitment to manage and maintain the historic Gwalia Townsite ensured that it was the successful recipient of a Lotterywest grant for conserving cultural heritage. The grant will see conservation work done to the Pink Camp and De Rubeis Cottage.

The small Pink Camp, with its charming features, scalloped details around the windows and distinguishing pink washed exterior walls remains a favourite of many.

It is a rare example of a miner's cottage that appears to have been built around two tents, linked by a skillion passage and with an enclosed verandah across the front.

De Rubeis Cottage consist of a bedroom and kitchen and features a trapdoor in the bedroom floor. G. De Rubeis owned the camp from 1948 for approximately 10 years until 1958/59. The last owner of the camp was L Tagliaferri, who lived there until 1960/61.

The Pink Camp and De Rubeis were among four cottages saved from demolition in 1987/88 by the Leonora Tourist Committee, with financial support from Sons of Gwalia NL.

The cottages were dismantled and relocated from their original location south of the State Hotel on the Sons of Gwalia mine lease when the Sons of Gwalia NL commenced open cut operations in the early 1980s.

When they were relocated to their current location in the 1980s, it is believed they were rebuilt in their historic relationship to one another.

As part of the 1996 Adopt-A-Cottage programme, volunteers, John and Jill Heather undertook further work to De Rubeis and Dave and Fee Pike worked on the Pink Camp.

We will keep you informed on the progress of work to both of these cottages.



Little Pink Camp also known as the Pink House



The kitchen in De Rubeis camp with pressed tin and hessian lined walls



North East view of the Pink Camp



De Rubeis Camp

Obituary—Eileen Catherine Barden

She was the last of the original links with Gwalia. Eileen Catherine Barden, aged 104 years and five months, has died in Perth. She insisted, at that age: "Every month counts!"

Born in 1909, when King Edward VII, was on the throne, and the newly formed Federation of Australia was eight years old, she lived through two World Wars and the Great Depression.



The wife of Reginald Arthur Barden, the last manager of the Sons of Gwalia mine, Mrs Barden, "there's a chicken in your garden" – as she was known to all the kids in Gwalia – was born in Perth, and grew up in Gwalia.

Her mother, Catherine Monica Lalor, related to Peter Lalor of the Eureka stockade, was born in Clunes, Victoria. Mrs Barden's father, Ernest Wilfred White, was born in Liverpool, UK. A stonemason by trade, he worked on Parliament House, Victoria. In hard-times he found work underground on the Sons of Gwalia. He contracted miner's complaint and died in 1944. He is buried in the Leonora cemetery.

Mrs Barden, a Catholic, was educated at the Dominican Convent in Leonora, and St Brigid's in Perth. After leaving school she worked for a time in the Co-operative store in Gwalia, and then moved to Perth to live with an aunt and found work at Boan's department store.

A striking, raven-haired beauty, her portrait was used as a promotion for one of the leading Perth photographic studios in London Court. She caught the eye of Reg Barden and they were married in Perth on June 15, 1937. They had four children – Kevin, born in Perth, and Joan

and Anne. Maureen, the second child, pre-deceased her mother in 2012. The three girls were born in Leonora.

Mrs Barden never lost her wit, or her keen sense of humour. When she was involved in a car accident, aged 99, and had to be cut from the wreckage using the jaws-of-life, she sat, calmly watching, as the rescue operation happened around her. When the concerned paramedic asked her the same question, repeatedly, she said: "There's got to be something wrong with your memory. You've asked me asked me the same question three times, and three times I've given you the same answer."

When the mine closed in 1963 the Bardens moved, first to Perth and then to Toorak in Melbourne. Widowed in 1997, she continued to live in Ashburton until 2006, when she returned to Perth.

She had an encyclopaedic knowledge of the former residents of the now ghost town. At a Gwalia luncheon, organised in her honour when she was aged 103, she sat, holding court, eating, enjoying the gathered company and basking in the attention.

Daughters Anne and Joan were with her when she died peacefully on Monday, June 17.

She is survived by three grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

It was the wish of Eileen Catherine Barden to be buried, privately, in Melbourne, alongside her husband, Reginald, and her mother, Catherine.



The Mine Manager's House that Eileen Barden once called home

Thank you to Roland Rocchiccioli for the use of his article

Thomas Gwalia Davies

On 2nd July 1898, Thomas and Hannah Harriet Davies became the parents of a baby boy they named Thomas Gwalia.

It is understood that Thomas Gwalia was the first baby born in Gwalia and to mark the occasion, the Sons of Gwalia Ltd gifted a silver cup to his father, the driver of the winding engine which lowered miners into the Sons of Gwalia mine.

Thomas Gwalia Davies was the only man born in Gwalia to enlist in World War I. His enlistment papers, dated 16th March 1918, give his occupation as letter carrier. His father was listed as next of kin, with his address as the Mount George Hotel, Gwalia.

Thomas Gwalia also served in World War II, enlisting on 5th October 1939, and held the rank of Sergeant.

He married Dorothy Irene Rice in 1928 and they had six children.

Thomas Gwalia passed away in South Australia in 1980.



Thomas Gwalia, the eldest, second son Alf and Owen the youngest, with their mother Hannah



Mrs J. Clouten, the granddaughter of Thomas Gwalia, donated the silver cup to the museum. It is decorated with a floral design and engraved with the inscription:

**Best Wishes
Officers
Sons of Gwalia Limited
1898**

World War I Centenary Commemorations

Across the globe and in Western Australia, activities will be held from 2014 until 2018 to commemorate the centenary of World War I (1914-1918).

As part of Gwalia's commemorations to mark the centenary of the World War I, a series of articles about men from Leonora and Gwalia who participated in the War, will be published in our newsletter. The story of Thomas Gwalia Davies, is the first in the series.

The information will be used to develop and host an exhibition at the Museum in 2015.

Visitor Focus : Cimetta family returns to Gwalia

Pasquale Cimetta first arrived in Gwalia in June 1952. He worked underground at the Sons of Gwalia Mine with Mick Omodei carting mullock for back filling. Part of his duties was making timber frames for the shafts.

During the period he worked at the Mine, he lived in Mrs Bendotti's camp before moving into the Pink House. In September 1954 he left Gwalia to work in Darwin.

Pasquale returned with his wife Teresa in May 1957. They purchased their first house in Tower Street for £130. He commented that he went to buy a washing machine from his neighbour and ended up buying not only the washing machine but the fridge and house for £330.

Pasquale also worked as a gas producer fireman, night watchman, gold smelter and in the gold room.

Pasquale and Teresa lived in Gwalia until January 1963 during which time they had four boys, Giulio, Ugo, Mario and Tony.

Our Museum Manager was delighted to meet the Cimetta family in May 2013. Pasquale Cimetta returned to Gwalia with three of his sons, recalling his time at the Sons of Gwalia Mine and living at Gwalia with his wife and family.



The Cimetta Family during their visit to the museum



Pasquale Cimetta remembering the time living and working in Gwalia



Pasquale in front of the Pink House he occupied in the early 1950s

Let us know if you are a past resident
who is planning a trip to Gwalia

Did you know?

In 1938, a Mine Level Model, was constructed in London for the annual meeting of the Sons of Gwalia. The Mine Model was recently sent to the Materials Conservation Department of the Western Australian Museum in Fremantle for an assessment of conservation work.

An article in the West Australian, 22 August 1938, read:

At the Industries Exhibitions Hall in Barrack-street, today, there will be displayed a glass model of the underground workings of the Sons of Gwalia Mine, near Leonora. After having been displayed in Perth, the model will be used on the mine for plotting future development work, particularly in relation to the new internal shaft, which will be commenced within two or three years No. 30 level.



The timber, brass and glass mine level model is almost 7 feet long & 4 feet high

Can you help?

Dina Patroni's family

The Gwalia Reference Group would like to get in touch with the family of Dina Patroni, who was the proprietor of Patroni's Guest Home. If you can help, please contact our Museum Manager.

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 our Museum Manager, 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.

Contacts:

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Gwalia Museum + Hoover House B&B

Shire of Leonora

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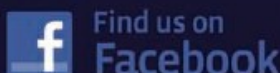
GWALIA TOWN SITE AND MUSEUM COMPLEX

SATURDAY 28TH AND SUNDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2013

60'S THEMED DINNER DANCE, PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION,
GWALIA STYLE SHOW AND TELL, MARKET STALLS, GOLD PANNING &
DRY BLOWING DEMONSTRATIONS AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE KIDS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION INCLUDING
ACCOMMODATION AND TRAVEL OPTIONS, CONTACT GAIL ROSS,
GWALIA MUSEUM 08 9037 7122 OR TRALEE CABLE 0408 951 186.

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING OVER THE WEEKEND BY
LIKING US ON FACEBOOK AT GWALIA GHOST TOWN.





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 relating 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 2012/13 is a weekend event on 28 & 29 September 2013 to mark the 50th anniversary of the closure of the Sons of Gwalia Mine.

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)
