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MEDIA RELEASE

Olympic Veteran Again Eyes Line Honours In Leonora

Veteran Olympian runner Jeff Riseley will lead the cream of Australia's track athletes to battle it out for line honours at this year's Leonora Golden Gift Elite Mile.

One of Australia's best ever distance runners and a multiple winner of past Leonora Elite Mile events, Riseley is set to lead a stellar field in Leonora on the WA Day long weekend.

Hot on his heels is a stacked field of Australia's young guns, ready to take down the twice Olympic runner and claim victory.

Field organiser, Runner's Tribe's Ross Johnson, said yesterday that some of Australia's best track athletes were heading to Leonora for next weekend's Golden Gift Carnival.

"We have assembled some of Australia's finest middle distance athletes to showcase their abilities in Leonora," Mr Johnson said.

"This race is a staple on the middle distance calendar and has been won by the who's who of Australian running.

"The experience is like no other and the athletes are honoured to be part of such a positive event."

The 2016 Leonora Golden Gift's men's and women's Elite Mile races are the twin highlights of the Leonora Golden Gift Carnival, to be run from Friday June 3 to Monday June 6.

Runners leading the field at this year's event include 2015 men's Elite Mile winner Zak Patterson, former World Beer Mile record holder James Hansen and 2015 Golden Gift finalist Chris Dale who ran second in this year's WA State 1500m.

They will be joined in Leonora's historical Tower Street by top Australian middle distance runner Douglas Hamerlok, veteran NSW athletes Charlie Hunter and Andre Waring, and top middle distance runner Matt Clarke from Victoria.

The Women's Elite Mile is expected to be dominated by top seed Bridey Delaney, current Oceanian record holder and 2013 Australian cross country champion.

"The gifted Bridey Delaney returns to Leonora in pursuit of her first ever victory," Mr Johnson said.

"Chasing her down will be the likes of WA's Jessica Ronan and Kate Elizabeth Fitzsimons, who are in terrific form heading into the race."

Strong competition is expected from Ronan, who achieved sixth place overall in last year's Australian XCV Nationals and came 22nd overall in the World Schools XC Championships in Hungary last month, while Fitzsimons was the third Australian at last year's Zatopek 10k National Championships.

Another solid contender, Melinda Witchard, was a finalist in the 2016 Women's National 1500m race and a bronze medallist in the 2016 NSW State Women's 1500m.

The Golden Gift's Elite Mile field also includes WA athlete Ben Chamberlain who made the Australian team for the Youth Commonwealth Games, WA champion 800m sprinter Peter Bol, national 1500m finalist Jack Stapleton and Tasmanian 5000m and 3000m record holder Stewart McSweyn.

In addition, the women's Elite Mile will include Charlotte Wilson who ran third in the Australian Athletics and Commonwealth Selection Trials, 2016 Australian Athletics Championships veteran Amy Brown, under-20 800m WA champion Phoebe Lawes and Abigail Rose Regan, the indoor mile record holder at Washington State University.

Available for comment:

Shire of Leonora President Peter Craig - 0418 950 572

Shire of Leonora CEO Jim Epis - 0418 118 220

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Media contact:

Frances Thornton

Ph: 0405 135 304

Email: frances@francesthornton.com.au

frances thornton
MEDIA

www.leonoragoldengift.com

Note to Editors

There are provisions for media to attend the Leonora Golden Gift, please contact Frances Thornton for further information on 0405 135 304 or frances@francesthornnton.cm.au

Broadcast quality video and photos will be available throughout the weekend.

About Leonora

Leonora is part of the Goldfields-Esperance region of Western Australia and has a rich history of mining, exploration and a well-established pastoral industry. An outback town with a difference, you'll enjoy visiting Gwalia, an abandoned old mining village that has been restored to its original condition and boasts one of Australia's finest museums.

View the Leonora Golden Gift Promotional Video [here](#).

2016 Programme

Leonora Golden Gift

Australia's best athletes battle it out over a mile down Leonora's main street. Heats Saturday, finals on Sunday.

Leonora Golden Wheels

Watch the exciting finish of stage two of the [Goldfields Cyclclassic](#) on Sunday.

Horse Racing

At the Leonora Race club Saturday and Monday

Community Concert & Fireworks – Main Street (Saturday)

[The Lulus](#) – WA's favourite children's entertainers

[Murphy's Lore](#) – Featuring Courtney Murphy (Australian Idol 2004) and Chris Murphy (Australian Idol 2006)

[Michael Stangel](#) – The Voice, 2013

Concert Under the Stars at Hoover House (Sunday)

[Michael Stangel](#) – The Voice, 2013

[Big T](#) – X-Factor 2015

[Frank Dixon](#) – Under 18 Australian Songwriter of the Year

[Akmal](#) - I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here 2016

Plus:

Kid's Zone with Silent Disco

Market Stalls

Leonora Art Prize

And much more!