

December 2015 Issue 6

Welcome All

I'm writing this for the December edition during harvest on a fire ban day. Like other farmers we take the time to stop in these conditions and cool down for a while and do others jobs while it is hot.

During this time, we have so many more vehicles that share our roads and I remind all people to take a little more time and care, including the busy trucks, to ensure we have an incident free harvest.

With this being a fire ban we are reminded of the dangers of our hot Aussie summers. I hope we all have clean tidy yards with dry grass kept to a minimum and have a clear plan if fires do start in the area. I know that I and many other CFS personnel and volunteers will try to help extinguish these fires but am mindful of others that can't and may need our help in others ways.

Council will be holding their regular council meeting in the Laura Civic Centre on Tuesday December 15th at 1pm. All community members have a chance to see the council in action. Questions from the floor will be allowed at the start only. It would be nice to see many locals in the audience.

As we look forward to Christmas, LCDTA will again have the party in the park on Wednesday 23rd December from 6pm. Further details on page 6 We hope for good weather but if like last year the weather turns will move to the oval complex to continue the festivities. All community members are welcome!

So I hope you all have a safe harvest, Merry Christmas and a Happy new year.

Cheers, Andrew Zanker, Chairman LCDTA

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Your FREE bi-monthly newsletter of Information produced by the Laura Community Development & Tourism Association (LCDTA) Inc.



The Laura Community Development and Tourism Association (LCDTA) are again conducting the Community Christmas Raffle.

If you are able to support us with items for Christmas Hampers, please leave your donations with Marg Thomas at North Paddock or in the Laura Information Centre—labeled "Christmas Raffle" by Fri. 18th Dec. Please accept our thanks for your donation.

Raffle tickets to be sold from the start of December until drawn at the Party in the Park on Wednesday 23rd December 2015

TOWN PARTY IN THE NORTH PARK LAND

LIONS AT CHRISTMAS!

Here we are again, it's Christmas!

The Rocky River Lions Club is selling the famous Traditional Christmas Cake at most main street businesses in Laura. The 1.5kg cake sells for \$16 and the 1kg for \$12. What has made these Australian-made cakes famous over the years is they are baked with 50% mixed fruit as part of the ingredients which helps to keep them moist all through the year.

Proceeds of the cake sales are channeled into Lions Projects such as Sightfirst, Medical Research, Childrens Mobility Foundation, Eye Health Program, Hearing Dogs, Disaster Relief, Orphanages, Drug Awareness and Youth Programs.

In a break from 'tradition', the annual Lions Christmas Stocking Raffle is, for 2015, the 'Lions Christmas Garden Trolley Package Raffle'. The trolley and contents are valued at over \$400, with tickets available for \$2 each at the Newsagency or IGA.

The raffle will be drawn on Friday 18th December, with something for every member of the family.

Some interesting facts about Golden North:

- Employs 55 people in Laura (60 in the summer) with 10 in Adelaide)
- 400 pallets ice cream in the freezer = 10 semi trailer loads
- Blyth is the nearest supply dairy
- 3 tankers of fresh milk is used per week
- There is more fresh milk used than skim milk powder
- Premium ice cream has 15% fat
- Golden North ice cream as 12% fat
- IGA Country Style ice cream has 11% fat
- 5 families own the business 4 of these work in marketing and accounting, 1 is a dairy farmer on the Fleurieu Peninsula





Laura Information Centre:

Volunteers came together on Wednesday, November 18th to celebrate the 10th Birthday of the Information Centre and the highlights of the year.

It was an enjoyable evening, with De' Cafe Laura's excellent menu to put us in a great mood. It was also good to be able to thank everyone for their contribution to the Centre and to welcome volunteers who had joined us in 2015.

Winners of the raffle were:

1st Robert Pech: 2nd Paige Cross: 3rd Lee & Graham Pech:

4th Jan Barberien: 5th T Weatherly.

An important part of the Information Centre's mission is to provide information for tourists who visit the town (have you seen our window displays?) and to encourage them to stay in the area and to return.

2015 has seen remarkable support for Laura in the media: -

Online – through the Southern Flinders Producer's Trail, Heritage Rail Trail (both available with QR codes) and the presence of Laura on the Datatrax and Data Warehouse websites.

The Laura website www.laurasa.com.au is also now live and continuing to improve.

In print – e.g. in the Qantas in-flight magazine, in the Advertiser articles on both Golden North and CJ Dennis and in the free IGA magazine a 3-page spread on Golden North.

Most tourists know the story of Golden North and the Adelaide Zoo contract but what most don't know is that this contract again comes into contention in March 2016 – so our support of our local ice cream needs to continue apace!

These are all excellent ways of bringing visitors to the Southern Flinders and Laura in particular.

So once again, thank you to all the volunteers who help in the Information Centre and to those producers who use us as an outlet for their wares.

Please remember the Centre is full of great gift ideas.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



The Annual General Meeting of Rocky River Historic & Art Society Inc was held in the Laura Archives on Saturday 31 October 2015

Tribute was made to Foundation Member, Barbara Kleinig who died on 21st April, and recognition made of the contributions made by her late husband Sim during the early years of the society and by Barb who was an active member of RRHAS for almost 40 years. Barb was Laura's first female Councillor, serving on the District Council of Laura, co-author of *Laura Days*, and respected for many other community contributions such as Creative Treasures, Meals on Wheels and Telecross.

Resignations from the positions of Secretary and Treasurer were received from Rhonda Pech and Lee Pech who will both remain as committee members. Thanks were extended to both Rhonda and Lee who have served in those positions for several years.

Present office holders are:

President; Greg Slattery Vice President; Paul Slattery Treasurer; Geoff Lange Secretary; position vacant

Highlights and activities of the past year include;

- Installation of the final section of shelving, and another compactus in the archives
- Finalized the last annual loan repayment of \$1,000 to Northern Areas Council.
- The long awaited shelter and information board at the cemetery has become a reality.
- Some exterior painting made possible by Northern Areas Council Community Grant
- Thanks to the Race Course Management Committee for a donation
- Main events were Folk Fair Art Exhibition, About Time, SA History Festival, Brush with Art exhibition, and History of Our Houses display which involved primary school students.
- A grant from Premier's Anzac Commemoration Fund enabled a display of the Trench Editions of Australian literature which were produced for the troops of WW1. Of the eight volumes published, four were CJ Dennis titles.

Anyone is invited to support the society by becoming a 'Friend of Rocky River' for \$10 per annum. Many former residents and researchers are 'Friends'





Laura Community Caravan Park News:

SOUTHERN FLINDERS Ranges

Some things you may not know about our lovely caravan park!

The site of the caravan park was previously the sports oval, and prior to 1971-72 was an open paddock with one small toilet.

Caravanners and campers had to be as self contained as possible as water and power was not available around that area.

The ablution block was erected in 1972-73 for \$6,000 as part of the RED scheme.

The open shed recently converted to a camp kitchen was built mainly as a shelter at a cost of \$900.

Managers had their phone number on display at the park and visitors had to collect their registration and key, pay the tariff and return the key on leaving. Doug Scott and Allan Moore were early managers.

The following are developments since that time:

- 1996 Laundry extension, \$3,000
- 2001 Two bedroom cabin, \$30,000
- 2002 Car garage & carport, \$3,000
- 2008 Two cabins, \$140,000
- 2010 Managers residence, \$75,000
- 2011 Cabin, \$60,000
- 2011 Welcome signs, \$1,000
- 2011 On-site Van, \$6,000
- 2012 Carport for Managers residence, \$2,000
- 2012 Dump Point, \$5,000
- 2013 Dry stone entrance, \$1,500
- 2013 Camp Kitchen, \$11,000
- 2015 Solar Lights, \$3,000
- 2015 Further work to Dry stone entrance, \$3,000
- 2015 Office/Reception building, \$65,000

Over the years there have been many voluntary hours, in kind support and financial backing from the Laura community, all of which has helped the Caravan Park achieve its present high standard.





Laura Hills Lamb:

Andrew and Emily Smith moved back to Laura 8 years ago and bought a 220 acre grazing and cropping property in the Laura hills soon after.

They decided to be a little different and try a new dual purpose merino called a Multipurpose Merino (MPM). The MPM is noted for it's wrinkle free skin (non-mulesing), long stapled wool, fast growth rate, high fertility

and award winning flavour and tenderness (often beating crossbreds and meat breeds in blind taste tests).

Merino lambs and hogget regularly receive prices 10-20% lower than crossbreds. In 2013 they sold some lambs at auction and received only \$2/kg (dressed) after transport, yard fees and other costs and they decided something needed to change.

Confident they had a product that was better than this, the Smith's started selling lamb and hogget through local butchers and entered the 2014 Australia's Best Lamb Competition. They won Gold and a Silver medal in the taste test competition and another Silver and Bronze in the Royal Sydney Fine Food Show a few months later.

They now sell lamb and hogget to some of the best restaurants in Adelaide and McLaren Vale and a few local pubs including North Laura, Snowtown and Spalding and Hickory's Run. Our region produces great ice cream, honey, pasta, lamb, beef, wine, olive oil and fruit.

"We love to get behind out local chefs and help them put local produce on their menus. We also do home delivery of the cuts; certain cuts the restaurants didn't buy" says Andrew, "It's very rewarding to hear feedback from chef's and home cooks and to follow your own product through from paddock to plate".

For more information please find *Laura Hills Lamb* on Facebook or follow them on Twitter@LauraHillsLamb.

You can also refer to an article in the Stock Journal:

http://www.stockjournal.com.au/news/agriculture/sheep/meat/lamb-on-the-menu-at-laura/2746748.aspx?storypage=0





Laura Hills Lamb:

Farm direct award winning lamb and hogget.

We have more lamb than our regular restaurants need so we sell bulk cuts of lamb direct to homes at wholesale prices.

Often in cuts not seen in supermarkets and with no middle man our regular prices beat the supermarket's specials.

- Large hogget legs (perfect for Webber at Christmas) \$9/kg.
- Forequarter chops \$9/kg
- Boneless mini roasts \$13/kg
- Shanks \$7/kg

Details and availability on the Laura Hills Lamb Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/Laurahillslamb/







● ② J CD FLINDERS MOBILE LIBRARY

Christmas Closure

Flinders Mobile Library service will be closing over Christmas from Friday 18th December 2015 at 5pm.

FLINDERS The library will re-open for business as usual from MOBILE LIBRARY 8.30am on Monday 4th January 2016.

Library staff have done their best to ensure all due dates for loans fall after the Christmas break. If you receive an overdue notice by email during the closure, please email the staff via flindersmobile.library@gmail.com and leave a message for staff to extend your items when they return.

The first visits for 2016 within the Northern Areas Council are as follows:

- Tue 5th January Laura
- Wed 6th January Gladstone
- Wed 13th January-Gulnare, Spalding and Georgetown

Please refer to the 2016 timetable on the website for more information www.flindersmobile.sa.gov.au

The staff wish to thank all their customers for a wonderful 2015 and wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.





Probus news:

Laura & Districts Probus Club meets monthly at different towns in the region. A guest speaker usually addresses the members after the meeting.

There will be no January meeting. The meeting scheduled for 9th February will be held at Laura Civic Centre at 10.30, followed by a guest speaker and lunch at the North Laura Hotel.

The Probus Club was started by a Rotary member who wanted something to do after he had retired from Rotary and didn't want to be involved with fundraising anymore.

The Probus Club is always looking for new members who can phone Gloria Hollitt on 8668 4059 or Keith Pitman on 8666 4247.





Laura Senior Citizens Club:

Club members go back to school!

Following our successful Annual General with all offices filled, our Members attended a delightful concert and afternoon tea provided by the staff and

children of Laura Primary School.

It was a fearfully hot afternoon but our welcome outshone the weather as we watched Laura's students perform action songs and recitations, together with a musical feast delivered by the orchestra.

Every child put heart and soul into the music, even the tiny Reception children who transformed themselves into pirates complete with boat.

Afternoon tea followed the concert with an abundance of delicious food provided mainly by the students who not only waited table, but joined us in lively conversations.

Their manners and general conduct was impeccable. To round off the afternoon we were treated to a viewing of all the children's art work and were impressed by the content and execution of the most varied works of art. Hide your head, Picasso.

Our last meeting of the year 2015 will be a Christmas lunch at De Café Laura in December and I know everyone will enjoy this.

New members always welcome!

For more information please contact Jean Cobb 8663 2298



LAURA COMMUNITY GYM

Providing an excellent opportunity for people of all ages to live a healthier lifestyle.

Join the Gym now as a casual or permanent member Membership fees casual visit ~ \$5.00

1 month ~ \$30.00 - 3 months ~ \$70.00

6 months ~ \$120.00

12 months ~ \$200.00

Application forms at Laura Post Office or call Deb Palmer on 0408 082 614 and please remember that Gym memberships make great Xmas gifts!



Northern Passenger Transport Network—Christmas Closure:

Assists people who cannot use or afford regular transport services or where no services exist. Transport may be provided by volunteer drivers or private transport services.

Will be closed for both office contact and passenger services, from the following dates:

Closed from: Friday 18 December, 5pm Re opens from: Monday 4 January

For further details, phone 08 8666 2255





Jacqueline and staff wish all their lovely customers a wonderful Christmas and a safe & happy New Year.

Laura Hair Affair 29 Herbert Street Laura SA 5480 8663 2462





RSL Remembrance Day:

Remembrance day was commemorated at 11am on Wednesday 11th November by a large crowd at the RSL Cenotaph in glorious sunny weather.

In a beautiful solemn ceremony conducted by the President of the Laura RSL in front of Veterans, their families, locals and schoolchildren, those that had given their lives in the service of the Commonwealth had their names spoken so that their ultimate sacrifice would never be forgotten.

Following the ceremony a BBQ lunch and refreshments, kindly donated by the Honourable Dorothy Kotz and her husband Brian AM, was enjoyed at the RSL Clubrooms by the schoolchildren and all whom attended the ceremony.

Lest we forget.





Adelaide to Copley Coach Service:

Genesis Transport operate a weekly coach service from Adelaide to Copley and return,

leaving Adelaide 7am Wednesday morning, arriving in Copley 4.30pm.

The return trip leaves Copley Thursday at 8.30am arriving back in Adelaide at 5.30pm.

For full timetables and fare charges please go to:

http://genesistransport.com.au/flinders.html

or phone Genesis direct on (08) 8552 4000 for more information.

Pick up point to and from Adelaide is at the Laura Post Office.



Laura's own Country Music songbird:

Young Isabella Allen secured her win in Port Pirie's talent quest, belting out a classic Taylor Swift tune.

Performing the powerful country-rock song 'Picture to Burn' all about heartbreak, anger and girl-power, Isabella, of Laura, took out the 11 to 12 years' vocal category.

"We were all so proud of her, she had us in tears," her dad Chris said.

The win is a special achievement for the 12-year-old, who recently has been battling epilepsy and is currently on medication that can make learning new songs a challenge.

However, the Mid North Christian College student doesn't let that get in her way.

"It makes her more determined," her dad said. Isabella's passion for music started young, telling her parents she wanted to become a famous singer when she grew up.

"I don't even know how long I've been singing for, it feels like forever," Isabella said.

Her parents told her the path to a musical career could be a hard slog, but none of that has deterred the songstress.

She started learning guitar and continued to develop her voice. Impressively, she's never had formal singing lessons.

One day she noticed the flyer for the Port Pirie talent quest, and told her parents she wanted to enter. Roma Sampson has been organising the talent quest in Pirie for over a decade, and believes Isabella has great potential.

"She has a lovely voice and as she gets older it will only get stronger," she said.

Isabella wasn't able to find out how she went in the competition, as she had to leave early to be with her Nanny and Pop who had travelled from Queensland to see Isabella and her three siblings. Instead, Roma personally delivered the trophy to her home in Laura.

"When she saw me those little eyes just lit up," Roma said. "I do this talent quest so country kids have the opportunity to perform, and seeing their joy makes it worth it."

The next year will see Isabella gain more experience on stage, performing in the New Year for charity events, and at the Laura Country Music Festival and Folk Fair. (Courtesy of Flinders News)

THE NBN™ IS ON IT'S WAY

Come down and get up to speed on the NBN.

The National Broadband Network is on it's way to you.

To help you make the most of it, we're holding an information session. Nothing too complex just the basics to get you up to speed on the benefits of the new super fast network.

We look forward to seeing you.

When: Wednesday December 3rd, 9:00 am - 12 noon

Where: Adjacent IGA, Horrocks Highway, Laura

Can't make it?

Call your local Telstra Store NBN Specialist at Port Pirie

PH: 0429 623 867 or 08 8632 5677



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Southern Flinders Health Advisory Council (HAC) Report – November 2015

SFHAC Annual General Meeting

The SFHAC Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday 22 October 2015. There were no changes in the HAC membership with the exception of the staff representative. Bronny Perry is our new staff rep., replacing Sarah Ashby who is now employed by Mid North Community Health. Welcome Bronny and many thanks to Sarah for her time and effort on the HAC.

Current resident members of the SFHAC are Catherine Klingner and John Slattery (Crystal Brook), Jan Crawford and Llyndell Duffy (Georgetown), Colin Raison (Gladstone) and Lorraine Griffin, Brian Higgins and Colleen Slattery (Laura). Geoff Lange (Northern Areas Council Representative) and Dr Helen Robertson (Medical Representative) are the remaining members.

Health Service Achievements over the last 12 months:

- Review of the 'When Someone Dies' booklet which is now used across the region
- Planning and preparation for Accreditation
- Implementation of the 'Fundamentals of Care' a care planning process used by nurses and midwives
- Compliance with Food Safety, Drinking Water Program and Fire Safety
- Review of all Emergency Procedures
- Gained Baby Friendly Health Initiative Accreditation for the next 3 years
- Participated in the Enrolled Nurse Cadet Program
- Installation of Digital X-ray and processor
- Implementation of a Staff Wellness Program at Crystal Brook
- Crystal Brook were winners of an SA Regional Award for Healthcare
- Laura returned the highest response rate in the state for the CHSA Staff Survey
- Initiation of Residents' Memorial Wall at Laura

Items funded by the Southern Flinders HAC Capital Account were:

- Secure gates Aged Care at Laura
- Gladstone RSL white ant damage
- Russell & Yelland Architects kitchen upgrade at Laura
- Medical Centre Doors at Crystal Brook
- Nurse Call DECT phone system at Laura

These improvements were made possible through the generosity of community donations and bequests.



★ Carpentry & Joinery

★ Roofing & Sheds
★ Garages & Carports
★ Concreting & Formwork
★ Bobcat & Roller Hire

* Building & Renovating

0457 846 033 LAURA SA



Interested in Gardening?

Recently the rose arbour in the North Laura Parklands had a much needed tidy-up with roses being pruned, agapanthus thinned and a thorough watering thanks to the dedicated work of Nita Klemm and her volunteers.

Over the years many volunteers have given their time to keep the gardens around Laura pruned, trimmed, weeded and generally looking attractive. We are very thankful for their contribution!

Unfortunately, we are now in a position where volunteer numbers for these occasional tasks has dwindled so we're looking for people who would be interested in dedicating a small amount of time to ensure our Town continues to look beautiful for residents and visitors alike.

Are you interested in becoming part of a group that meets on a regular basis (monthly/bi-monthly?) to continue the work of past volunteers?

Many hands make light work; there's not much to do and you'll also get some exercise, fresh air and enjoyable conversation.

If you can help out please contact Joyce Wode (8663 2660 or 0437 345 211) or come along to a LCDTA meeting held on the 4th Wednesday each month from 7.30 at the Civic Centre.



Kerbside Waste Collections over Christmas and New Year Period:

NORTHERN Waste collections continue over the Christmas New Year period as per the Waste and Recycling calendar. This calendar can be found on Council's website www.nacouncil.sa.gov.au

As detailed on the calendar, the **only change** is on Christmas Day (Friday 25 December).

Appila Road Collections, Jamestown, Mannanarie and Tarcowie Recycling Collection will be collected on Saturday 26th December.



All other kerbside waste collections will operate on the regular days.

Transfer Stations over Christmas and New Year Period:

There are ${
m NO}$ changes to the opening hours of the Waste Transfer Stations they remain as: Gladstone Sun 1pm - 4pm Wed 11am - 1pm

Office closures Christmas/New Year:

Jamestown Administration Office

Closed from: Wed 23rd December, 3pm till Mon 4th January 2016

Gladstone Administration Office

Closed from: Wed 23rd December 2pm till Mon 11th January 2016 The Gladstone office will open at reduced hours for January & part of February. Check the Council website for details.



- Council Office Jamestown 8664 1139, 1300 664 108
 (Please Note: The 1300 number listed in Laura Community Calendar is only available for landlines)
- Council Office Gladstone 8662 2018
- Dog Control, Garry Harris 0419 858 375
- Manger Environmental Services, Alan Thomson 0409 286 542
- Councillor Sue Scarman, can be seen personally at the Laura Visitor Information Centre (check roster for times when she is there) or 0418 844 935 or sue.scarman@icloud.com
- Councillor Geoff Lange, 0427 632 334
- NAC Fire Prevention Office Jennie Window, 8664 1139



Finding a Justice of the Peace:

Barry Harvie 8663 2187 or 0409 698 009

Barry Harvie 8663 2187 or Geoff Lange 0427 632 334 Jon Hawkins-Clarke 8663 2172 John Stevens 8663 2303

Laura Community Development & Tourism Association Inc. PO Box 149 Laura SA 5480 www.laurasa.com.au

Chairman: Andrew Zanker 0438 118 227 Secretary: Lorraine Griffin 8663 2412 Newsletter Editor: Newsletter Committee

Reports, articles and advertising for the February Newsletter can be submitted by email to Icdta5480@gmail.com or delivered to The Laura Soap & Gift Shoppe no later than 5pm Friday 22nd January 2016. Receiving articles electronically assists in the production of the newsletter

Advertising:

Contact Hans Simons 8663 2170 or 0439 093 100 for details.

This is a community publication. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Association. The Editor reserves the right to edit or refuse articles.

Please Note:

If you know of someone who unfortunately hasn't received a copy of the Laura Standard, extra copies are available from the Laura Information Centre.

Laura Standard Advertising Fees:

Full page \$40.00 \$25.00 Half page Quarter page -\$15.00 One Line \$2.00

Latest time to submit articles

for inclusion in the February edition of The Laura Standard is

5 pm Friday 22nd Jan 2016



Update on the nbn™ fixed wireless service for Laura:

The Laura fixed wireless facility is about to be turned on, forecast prior to Xmas 2015.

Australia's broadband network

NBN will be advising rural homes and businesses in the coverage range when services are available.

At this time you can request an installation through your preferred phone or internet provider.

nbn™ **co** can be reached on 1800 687 626

Eighty Years ago: (From the Laura Archives, RRHAS Inc.)

Historically, Laura has been known as the **Town of Bridges**, with road bridges on three entrances, and a swing bridge for pedestrians on the eastern approach.

The first bridge at the northern end was named the Victoria Bridge in honour of Queen Victoria. Partially funded by local government, the Corporation of Laura and the Booyoolie District Council, it cost £574 (\$1,158) and was opened in 1905.

It was replaced in 1936 by a reinforced concrete bridge constructed and funded by the Highways Department of the SA Government at a cost of £2,750 (\$5,500). The Minister for Local Government and Agriculture, Hon AP Blesing (of Bangor) performed the opening on 23 January 1936, in the presence of JL Kennedy. Chairman of District Council of Laura.

In more recent times the bridge underwent upgrading and widening of the bridge in conjunction with reconstruction of the Main North Road.



Obviously a hot January day; RH Bristow-Smith (Town Clerk), Cr SJ Condon, Cr JL Kennedy, Hon AP Blesing on the dais, and HG Hawkins MLC and L McEwin MLC.

Photo shows JL Kennedy driving his Chrysler over the bridge with Hon AP Blesing.

