



August 2017 Issue 16

A warm winter welcome to all readers.

Another day in paradise, with cool, cold or frosty mornings being followed by sunny and warmish days. It's been nice to receive the rain; the countryside is looking good throughout our lovely region.

We've just held our Golf day at the Laura course, which was again presented in tip top condition, a credit to the golf club. I trust all had an enjoyable day! Thank you to all who contributed time into making this day the success it continues to be after so many years. Thank you to our sponsors and for donations small and large, it all helps our fundraising efforts.

The LCDTA are looking for people skills in the community and you may be approached at some time to help us with work around the town. Our AGM is held in August; we've had members step down or move away so we would appreciate some support at the meeting. Attending the meeting doesn't mean you should join the committee, although any innovative ideas you could bring for future direction and projects will certainly help us with future planning.

We have been busily applying for grants and have received grant money to improve the Laura Lookout. Hopefully, the upgrade will be completed soon and help make the viewing a little more comfortable. It's well worth a look anyway while the country looks so green, so take the time for a short drive west of town. Don't hurry, just enjoy the views!

Good luck to all playing winter sports. As we head toward finals time I say best of luck, enjoy and be careful to avoid injuries.

A warm welcome to all visitors whether you have a short stop or enjoy a longer stay, and to all who are newly moved to our area, I hope you enjoy your stay.

Cheers,

Andrew Zanker, LCDTA Chairman.



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

North Laura Hotel Re-development:

Work is currently underway on the property to add 17 accommodation units and building improvements to the existing pub.

The short-stay accommodation units comprise of 3 bedroom, 2 bedroom and 1 bedroom options, with 2 of the units designed to be handicap-accessible. The 2 and 3 bedroom units include a living space and all units have their own undercover carport. The units are conveniently located on the grounds surrounding the hotel, so you can unload and head over for a tasty pub meal from the kitchen, and a drink at the bar to relax. The hotel kitchen facilities will be revamped and upgraded with state of the art appliances, so keep an eye out for what the on-site chef will be whipping up.



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Pascale Construction is proud to be selected to be the Head Contractor for the North Laura Hotel and Accommodation Units development.



Mohyla

Phone: 8232 0140
architects@mohyla.com.au

Mohyla Architects are proud to be involved in this project as we undertake another Mohyla/Condon venture.

NLH NORTH LAURA HOTEL

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northlaurahotel.com.au

georginaadams1@outlook.com



Laura Community Development & Tourism Association Inc.

*The **AGM** of the LCDTA is being held in the Laura Memorial Civic Centre on: **Wednesday 23rd August 2017 at 7.30pm.***

Everyone is welcome to attend. Come along, get involved and support your beautiful community!



Meals on Wheels news:

Firstly, a big thankyou to all volunteers who deliver meals in all types of weather. Your commitment to this service is very much appreciated.

Next, the refurbished Hospital kitchen will be up and running in **very early August**. No exact date is known at this stage so take your pick as to whether you try the front or back door first... and apologies if you choose the wrong one!

Finally, our **AGM** will be held on **Wednesday 16th August at 1.30pm** at the **Laura Sporting Complex**. All interested are welcome.



Laura RSL Affiliate Membership:

One of the reasons for the decline of the RSL HQ is the demise of our veterans, so to keep our organisation operational, the RSL is looking for Affiliate members. This is State wide, but more so in our country areas so that smaller town RSL's do not close. Your support would be most welcomed at the Laura RSL.

Trevor D. McKerlie (0408 635 054)
President.



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Laura Folk Fair news:

Quiz Night:



Since the last Laura Standard, we have held a successful Quiz Night which also included a Goods and Services auction. We would like to thank everyone who supported us with either their attendance or with generous donations. The raffle which was run in conjunction with this night was won by:

1st Prize - Frank Belcher

2nd Prize - Phil Hollitt

3rd Prize - Bernie Sayer

AGM:

The AGM was held in July which, sadly, was poorly attended, but with work leading up to the night, we now have a committee of 12 members which leaves 1 vacant position if anyone is keen to join. Committee members for 2017/18 are:

Sue Scarman - Chairman and LCDTA rep

Amy Simons

Barry Harvie - Vice-Chairman

Glenn Kay

Peter Hay - Treasurer

Jim Lynch

Arwen Pratt - Secretary

John Kitto

Cr. Geoff Lange - Council Delegate

Kayla Walker

Jonathan Hawkins-Clarke

Sharon Pool

Work now starts in earnest for the 2018 Folk Fair. We will be looking for active team members for all of our teams. Entertainment, governance, sponsorship and grants, fundraising, marketing and promotion, stallholders...the list goes on. If you have a little or a lot of time and would like to be involved in a small or large way we will gladly accept your input into what we hope will be another great Folk Fair.

Save the Date: October 22nd - *Fashion Parade and High Tea* fundraiser. This afternoon event promises to be fantastic so please put this date in your calendar. More information will follow later.

First Aid training:

ActFasTraining were our First Aid crew for the 2017 Folk Fair and have offered us training at a good price so we would like to open this opportunity up to anyone who would like to update their First Aid Certificate or obtain one for the first time. You never know when you may need it so please contact Sue, 0418 844 935, if you are interested and a time and date can be arranged to suit most people.



Lions Club of Rocky River news:

Rocky River Lions held their annual Handover Dinner at the North Laura Hotel on June 27th.

The Board for 2017/18 comprises Sam Evans (President), Greg Wheeler (Secretary), Sam Smith (Treasurer), Colin Raison (1st Vice President), Allen Weston (2nd Vice President) and Bevan Smith (3rd Vice President).

Immediate Past President Greg Wheeler, in his report, highlighted the activities of our Club in the 100th year of the foundation of Lions International in 1917, fundraising activities and support for local projects. Main fundraisers were the sale of donuts at local footy/netball games, the Laura Folk Fair and the collection and sale of sample grain at the Gladstone Silo Complex.

Over \$6000 was disbursed to many worthy causes within the Rocky River region, including major sponsorship of the Folk Fair, sponsors of the Gladstone Art Exhibition and Laura Country Music event. Others included support for childhood cancer research, CFS Volunteers Foundation, High School student activities and the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Ongoing projects include the installation of the Lions Centenary seats at Laura, Gladstone and Georgetown, Tresylva Park upgrade in Gladstone and the Laura parking bay on the Port Pirie Road.

If you are interested in joining Lions and being a part of community support for our local community, with the fellowship that comes with that, just speak with any Lion member.



Lois Harvey became a member of the Laura Caravan Park team in 2005. Terry and Gordon Schutt had only been running the park for a short time and were happy to have a volunteer to help with the cleaning and other odd jobs.

During her time, Lois has worked with Bill and Kaye Foston, Norm and Joy Colquist, and Alex and Barb Drosdow and has seen many improvements, including three new cabins, the Managers residence and the Reception office.

Lois has decided that after twelve years as a member of the caravan park and several years as a member of the LCDTA, it is time to retire.

We sincerely thank Lois for her tireless and cheerful commitment to the Caravan Park and community.





A big, big thank you!

Felicity and Peter would like to thank all those who sent warm wishes, kind words, prayers and treats for Bonney's recovery after the horrific attack in May.

Bonney is recovering well and getting stronger all the time and she looks forward to seeing everyone at the Post Office.



Laura and Districts Probus Club news:

Probus members recently enjoyed two very interesting Meetings.

We met at Gladstone in June and heard the Gladstone Post Mistress talk of her life to date. Sunny Yao and her husband were born in China in the days of one child per family. Sunny's parents worked for a Company, lived in a Company home and she went to school at the Company's school. Sunny later graduated from University, married and had a son. Sunny and her husband migrated to Australia 2 years ago and settled at Gladstone. Sunny loves China but can see the problems. As parents, they sought the quality of life in Australia away from the pressure on children to learn and the life threatening smog of Beijing.

Our meeting in July was in Laura where Monty Smith spoke of town, church and private cemeteries and lone graves. Government Acts and Council's role and record keeping, the care and upkeep of graves and the need to maintain correct records. It was a very interesting talk!

Plans are under way for a day trip to Holiwilena at the end of August.

Our next Meeting will be at the Wirrabara Institute on 8th August at 10am followed by a meal at the Hotel.

Retirees are welcomed. Do come and join us, we love new faces!





Rocky River Garden Club

Rocky River Garden Club news:

Our monthly meetings have been well attended with a range of topics covered.

Guest Speaker for our May meeting was Terry Scoop who now resides in Jamestown.

Terry has a Diploma in Horticulture which has led to him working as a nurseryman in a range of workplaces. His moving to Jamestown and the climate that comes with it has sparked a keener interest in growing succulents and cacti. Terry brought many plants with him and gave a detailed presentation about propagating and tending to this range of plants.

Our June meeting was held in the afternoon in lieu of the colder, darker evening that winter usually presents. Our theme for this meeting was, *I have a Problem, Can You Help? (Gardening problems, that is!)*. Maree Cooper from Laura oversaw the running of this get-together. Many questions were asked and a lively discussion followed on possible solutions and remedies. We all learnt something from this informal discussion. To add a touch of light entertainment to the meeting, all attendees were asked to bring something *red* from their garden. An array of items turned up from food to flowers to garden ornaments.

Next Meeting: Monday 24th July at Wirrabara Institute at 1:30pm.

Note: Afternoon meeting during winter.

Topic: *Bring Your Most Useful Gardening Book(s), and Why You Like It*

Monday 14th August we have a bus trip to the **Botanic Gardens - Adelaide**. The bus will leave from Laura RSL at 7am. After a short stop at Pt Wakefield, we will arrive in the city at 11am. A day of leisure to wander the gardens. If time permits a visit to Virginia Nursery on the way home.

Non Members Welcome to join us.

Monday 25th September bus trip to Whyalla. *Australian Urban Farming*, see how they do it in tough conditions. Bus to leave from Melrose (time to be advised at a later date). Everyone Welcome!

Laura Committee Member: Maree Cooper 0427 632 400

Wirrabara Committee Members: Barb Vogelsang 8668 4233

Ruth Francis 8668 4241

ROCKY RIVER GARDEN CLUB INC.

Monthly Meetings: WIRRABARA INSTITUTE

4TH MONDAY IN THE MONTH

DOG REGISTRATION FEES 2017-18

New dog registration fee codes are:

Working dogs	\$15.00
Standard dog (both microchipped & desexed)	\$30.00
Standard Concession (microchipped & desexed – concession)	\$15.00
Non-standard dog (not desexed or not microchipped)	\$60.00
Non-Standard concession	\$30.00
Desexed only	\$50.00
(desexing certificate must be provided unless already registered as desexed)	

Microchipped only	\$50.00
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(microchip number must be provided)

If desexing certificate and microchip number not provided Non- Standard fee applies.

Registered racing greyhounds	\$15.00
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The following provisions will come into effect on 1 July 2018:

- Mandatory Microchipping – which will apply to all dogs (including current generations).
- Mandatory Desexing – which will apply to all dogs born after 1 July 2018.



Flinders Embroiderers' Guild:

Bring your lunch, come and try embroidery!

The Flinders Branch is extending an invitation to anyone who may be interested in what we do or if you are interested in learning a new skill, or even advancing a skill that you may already have in the embroidery field. There are many fields within the embroidery realm, surface stitchery, lace work, basic embroidery skills, crewel work, gold work, black work and many more; they are all beautiful works of art.

The Guild branch is open to all community members on the first and third Monday's of the month from 10:00 am through till 3:00 pm. If you wish to become a member, please visit us at the Laura RSL building. Should you require further information please do not hesitate in contacting the Branch President, Janice Taylor on 08 8663 2561 or the Branch Secretary, Ann Smith on 08 8663 2383, they will be only too happy to assist.



LCDTA Inc. update:

Recently another LCDTA project has been completed, namely the second BBQ shelter in the North Laura Parklands. Since completion, it has been used frequently which is great to see.

Over many years the LCDTA committee, along with community members, have been involved in an incredible number of town projects, with a good percentage of the funds required being sourced from our local fundraising efforts. Local businesses have been engaged where and whenever possible and we have also received good support from Northern Areas Council, whether it be from funding, assistance with grants or in-kind support.

As we have many new residents in the area, we thought this would be a good opportunity to share with everyone information and history about some past and upcoming projects.

Part 1 - North Laura Parklands



The development of the North Laura Parklands commenced in 2001. Previously the vacant land was cropped as a fundraiser by community groups but was made available to LCDTA by the Northern Areas Council. The Parklands was designed to be a central area in

town for the local community and visitors to enjoy for recreation and relaxation; the basic plan being an area to be enjoyed by young and old, with a playground and BBQ area to be used by families.

The first major project was the installation of the playground equipment, at a cost of \$11,000, closely followed by the Rose Arbour and paving. In 2002 mounds of soil were carted and developed to create an amphitheatre with approx. 4,000 tonne of soil carted for the project, (the cost of this work is unknown as it was work-in-kind). In 2002 irrigation was laid for the lawn area, Furphy heritage lighting installed and the toilet block with wheelchair access completed. All of these improvements totalled \$50,000.

Our first BBQ shelter with 2 electric BBQ's was built in 2003, this was also the year we saw the development of the car park and installation of bollards. In 2004 we installed shade sails over the playground, which was fantastic for families using the area in the heat of summer, and in 2008 & 2011 further playground equipment was added. Also in 2011 was the development of the skate park. Over the 8 year period, we spent \$131,000 on these projects.

With the help of financial assistance from local groups and community funds, in 2012 we installed a fence around the playground to help ensure the safety of the children. The second BBQ shelter commenced in 2016.

It is estimated that an extra \$40,000 would have been easily spent on incidentals such as trees, roses and shrubs; seating and tables; and many other small items over time.

continued on page 11....

....continued from page 10

This brings the total money spent at the park to \$267,000 without including the value of volunteer hours spent carrying out the projects.

The development of the North Laura Parklands has been very positive for the Town and is an area which is used by the local community on a regular basis, but better still it's used by a large number of visitors. It is very pleasing to see tour buses stop frequently to eat their lunch and use the facilities, and quite often they walk down the street and spend some money with our businesses.

The playground and skate park are constantly in use, a popular gathering point for young mothers. The BBQ areas are not only popular for visitors but also for local birthday parties as a safe area for young families. The rose arbour has become a popular place for outdoor weddings, with over a dozen held there since its construction. The park has also become the venue to hold the annual Christmas party, with generally over 100 people attending this event each year.

As you can see, many hours and much money have been spent in the parkland area but many other projects have also been completed by the LCDTA committee and volunteers in the same time period. These projects will be the subject of our next article in the October newsletter.

The LCDTA strategic plan includes new exciting projects but we must also maintain past improvements. To maintain and continue the great work of past and current volunteers requires many hands. If you would like to help us continue this work, here are some of the tasks waiting to be completed;

- Re-oil rose arbour at North Parklands
- Repaint Golden North Sign at north end of town
- Repaint 'Laura' Railway sign
- Install fencing at Courthouse Art Gallery
- Revitalise median strip gardens
- Repair roof cladding on median strip gazebo
- Relocate garden tubs from front of Creative Treasures
- Sand and re-oil tables in median strip
- Paint bollards in North Parklands
- Repair damaged cladding on Toilets in North Parklands
- Re-paint seating in North Parklands playground

If you have an interest in helping with any of the above, or indeed have some great ideas of your own that you wish to share, please come along to the **AGM on Aug 23** or contact Joyce: 0437 345 211 or Darren: 0429 705 520.

We look forward to hearing from you!



Then and Now: Aspects of North Laura:

As we observe the exciting motel development at the North Laura Hotel it is timely to look across the road. Observant people may have noticed that the old Mill site has been tidied up somewhat. Whilst the future of this site is still undecided, we can hope that some of the basic structure can survive. Laura has already lost some of its significant heritage structures; the old Town Hall, the Beetaloo Reservoir Hotel, the original Booyoolie District Council Office and more recently the Railway Station.

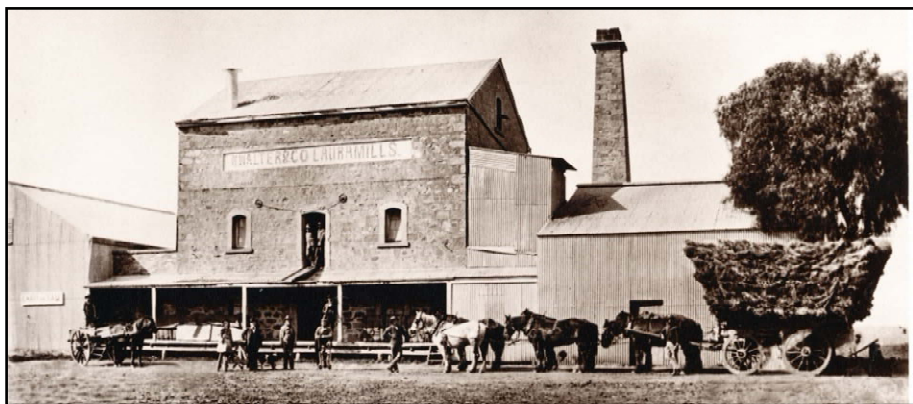
The Laura flour mill was built in 1874 for HWA Walter, after whom the streets of North Laura were named. Flour mills were notoriously risky for burning down. That happened in 1878. The mill was rebuilt and passed into the ownership of GE Walter who installed new machinery in 1893. It was reported as "only the second in the Colony" to be a complete Roller Mill.

After 1911 the mill was closed for a while before being purchased by the Kleinig family, trading as Laura Milling Co, and reopened the following year after extensive alterations with TA Kleinig as Manager. In 1924 a Bronze Medal was awarded in the British Empire Exhibition for the Laura flour.

The Laura Milling Company was well known for its BEST Laura Flour that "enjoyed the largest sales of any mill in the state for mills of a similar capacity". Flour and other products were supplied to Kingoonya, Broken Hill, Darwin and Mt Isa making extensive use of rail transport and even camel trains.

In 1960 major improvements included the installation of bulk handling facilities. The mill finally ceased production in 1972, but continued to process flour for specialized markets. The Laura mill was for many years the sole supplier of special high protein flour to the missions and settlements of Aboriginal communities of Central Australia.

The mill has been a significant part of life in Laura providing employment for generations, often working three shifts over 24 hours.





LCDTA A.S. Condon Memorial Golf Day Tuesday 18th July 2017:

This event has been held for the last 21 years and strongly supported by the community and businesses.

- The day was cold with a few showers of rain and 9 teams hit off at 10am. It was an Ambrose competition with an attached fee of \$80 per team of four players.

Marg Thomas, and her band of ladies, provided morning and afternoon tea as well as lunch. Soup, schnitzels and hot vegies were the order of the day followed by apple crumble. Well done to everyone as well as those who donated food and goods for the day.

Championship winners: Georgetown Hotel. Runner up, Catherine Combe's team.

Handicap winners: Ashley Lines' team. Runner up, Golden North team.

Trophies were awarded for N.T.P. Ladies and Men's and also Long Drive Ladies and Mens (3 divisions). NAGA trophy was again won by Andrew Zanker.

Peter Thomas conducted the spinning wheel, lots of prizes, all of which were donated, thanks again Peter.

The Laura Golf Club kindly donated the facilities for the day, Thank you.

Approximately \$3,000 was raised for the community, which is very much appreciated.

Thanks to all who worked on the day, cooks Barry Harvie and Paul Slattery, Marg Thomas and her ladies and Beetle Murdock, who controlled the bar.

This event could not be held without the continued support of the following sponsors:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
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| • Blights Real Estate | • Laura Meat Store | • Stevens Motors |
| • Coco Laura | • Laura Post Office | • Stone Hut Bakery |
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| • Intersport Port Pirie | • Nettle Electrical | |
| | • North Laura Hotel | |



Southern Flinders Health Advisory Council report:

HAC Funded Improvements:

New carpets are being purchased for the Community Room at the Crystal Brook Hospital and for the Gladstone Health Centre. These projects are being funded from the Southern Flinders HAC Account. Funds in this account have come from the generosity and fundraising efforts of our communities.

Laura Hospital Kitchen Upgrade:

Work has progressed smoothly on this project and the kitchen should be operational by early August.

Visit by Country Health SA CEO:

On July 6th Maree Geraghty - CEO of Country Health SA visited the Laura Health Unit where she met with staff and HAC members. Several local health issues were raised and discussed.



Life was good:

After the Second World War there were two trains daily from Adelaide to Gladstone with connections to Laura on the Wilmington line. That meant that there were also two mail deliveries daily.

During the 1960s with the introduction of the Bluebird Railcars, a new schedule was introduced whereby one could leave home early in the morning and arrive at Adelaide Railway Station around 11am. After spending some time in Adelaide before departing at 5pm arrival back at Laura was at 9.50 pm having changed to a narrow gauge Brille Railcar at Gladstone.

A very good service, which would be very nice to have in this so called modern progressive society!





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Tuesday – Roast Night

option 1 = roast only \$14.95

option 2 = 2 course \$17.95 soup n roast or roast n dessert

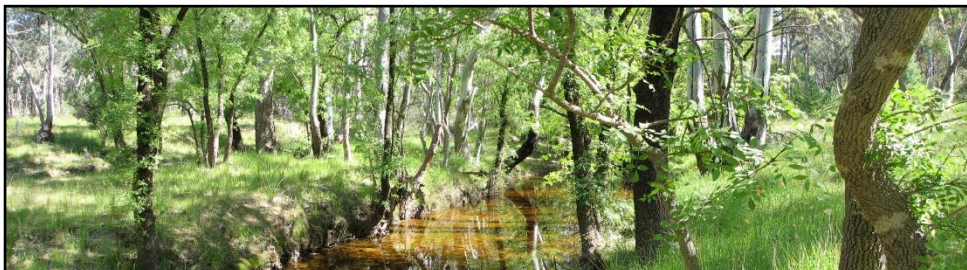
option 3 = 3 course \$21.95 plus free tea or coffee

****Keep an eye out for our Monthly 'Theme' Night... next are**

Friday August 25th - Italian Buffet

Friday September 22nd - Chinese Buffet

Make sure you call to book 8663 2657



CREATIVE TREASURES

On July 4th 1992, Creative Treasures was officially opened for trading as a Christian Gift Shop at 42 Herbert Street Laura. Gradually over the years, our stock increased and we also began selling local crafts and home products.

In 1998, Creative Treasures moved into a new home at the site of the former ANZ Bank building. During the next 19 years, we developed quite a strong customer base, locally and further afield. Visitors from Adelaide and interstate would often call in on their travels through the area. Many made it a regular stop.

Creative Treasures was a popular place for plants, biscuits, jams, relishes and especially on Fridays for home baked goodies as well as Bibles, books, cards and gifts.

Known by many as the "God Shop", Creative Treasures has been fully staffed by volunteers. Over the 25 years, many people have given generously of their time to keep the doors open at least five days a week. Their volunteering has been greatly appreciated. A few folks have had a long association with the shop.

On April 28th 2017, the doors to Creative Treasures closed for the final time.

During the years, Creative Treasures has gifted its profits to various causes. As we finalise the bookwork, the volunteers have nominated Uniting Care Wesley, Laura Folk Fair, Rocky River Schools Ministries Support Group, Samaritans Purse, Minda Home Inc., Royal Flying Doctors and a project at the Laura Hospital as beneficiaries of our surplus funds.

Thank you to all the volunteers and to the Laura district for your support during the last 25 years.

Blessings to all. Eleanor Harvie.



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Email: stonehutcottages@gmail.com

Website: www.stonehutcottages.com.au



Contacts:

- **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
- **NAC Fire Prevention Officer** Jennie Window, 8664 1139
- **Manger, Regulatory Services** Alan Thomson 0409 286 542
- **Councillor Sue Scarman** can be seen personally at Laura Visitor Information Centre (check the LIC roster for times when she is there) or 0418 844 935 or Sue.Scarman@NACouncil.sa.gov.au
- **Councillor Geoff Lange** 0427 632 334





2018 Laura Community Calendar:

The Laura Community Calendar is a service to our community coordinated by the Laura Community Development and Tourism Association (LCDTA).

Each year the LCDTA ensures local organisations and traders have the opportunity to advertise on the calendar.

In the past the calendar has been formatted by the committee, however, this year we plan to have the calendar formatted at the printer in Port Pirie. This means that all Calendar entries and payments are needed no later than November 15th and preferably sooner.

The insert in the current calendar is the application form which will be sent to the printers with the calendar information you provide once payment has been processed.

If you are unable to locate the Calendar insert, please contact Denise Higgins on bridenhi@bigpond.com for a replacement form.



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, 3 months - \$70.00,

6 months - \$150.00, 12 months - \$200.00

Concessions available

Application forms are available at the Laura Post Office or call Deb Palmer: 0408 082 614.

Not sure if the Gym is for you? You are welcome to go along with a Member and pay a casual fee of \$5.00 or alternatively, pick up an access button from the Post Office, and please remember that Gym memberships make great gifts!



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Finding a Justice of the Peace:

Barry Harvie	8663 2187 or 0409 698 009
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 October Newsletter can be submitted by email to lcdta5480@gmail.com or delivered to The Laura Soap & Gift Shoppe no later than 5pm Friday 22nd September 2017. Receiving articles, photos & logos electronically assists in the production of the newsletter.

Advertising:

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

*As an incentive for supporting the Laura Standard with your advertisements you will receive your 6th advertisement **free of charge.***

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. Newsletters in colour can also be emailed to you by providing us with your email address.

This edition as well as all previous editions can be viewed, downloaded & printed in colour by visiting www.laurasa.com.au and clicking 'News'

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

Laura Standard Advertising Fees:

Full page	- \$40.00
Half page	- \$25.00
Third page	- \$15.00

Latest time to submit articles

for inclusion in the October
edition of The Laura Standard is
5 pm Friday 22nd Sept 2017

Tourism and Wind Turbines:

At a recent Wirrabara Producers Market, I was talking to a Melrose B&B owner who said they had been flat out for the last two years with the surge in tourism to the region. Confidence is high and investment in new accommodation and tourism is evident, driven by cycling and environmental activities and experiences such as those being offered by the revival of the Jacka Bros Brewery (Flinders News July 19th). People really are getting out more.

Elon Musk cited the new battery installation on the Hornsdale wind farm as a tourist attraction too, but this has to be taken in balance with surveys on tourism and wind farms over recent years in other places.

A YouGov survey in Britain cited on the webpages of The John Muir Trust, a body deeply involved with the protection of Scottish countryside, stated, “43% of people in Britain who visit scenic areas in the UK for their natural heritage and beauty would be “less likely to visit a scenic area with a large concentration of wind farms.”

The Daily Mail, in an article about Scottish tourism and wind farms says, “Two thirds of those surveyed say they have been put off visiting Scotland by wind farms – and will not revisit places they have already visited where turbines now exist...The evidence from this, and other surveys, suggests that visitors dislike them more and more as they cease to be a novelty.”

Due to their involvement with the new battery, NEOEN has told us that they are revising their timelines for the Crystal Brook Energy Park. It still looms over the residents of Crystal Brook and Beetaloo who are concerned about its effects on our district's tourism.

Rarely does a day pass without seeing cars loaded with bikes go through this district. Getting more trails through the hills around Laura and joining them up with the Wirrabara Forest will be more productive than covering this beautiful countryside with 220 metre high wind turbines as illustrated by this photomontage of Hughes Gap from Prior's Hill.

Chris Stroud, Chair BVA

