

# The Laura Standard



August 2018 Issue 22

Hi readers

I hope you enjoy our newsletter.

I don't know how to look at the weather in our area for the year so far. Many older than myself are starting to compare this year with the drought of 1982, I hope this is not the case as I think there is still time for plenty of rain to fall as the year goes on.

I feel for the many areas that are already in drought across our wide brown land. I do hope and pray for widespread rain soon to turn things around for those that are struggling.

We have recently held our annual golf day, with fewer teams but a very good day on the course. We were in the clubhouse enjoying the ladies catering by the time the wind and showers really hit. A good fun day that was also a good fundraiser and I thank the many sponsors for helping the town again this year.

Our AGM is held in August and I invite people to join the committee. I would encourage everyone to come along and add some ideas and hear what we are currently working on. If you want to help in any way it would be much appreciated. All LCDTA meetings, not just the AGM, are open for all to attend.

The Civic Centre will celebrate 50 years later in the year and in 4 years time will celebrate 150 years of Laura so here is a chance to help organise these events. The Caravan Park is holding an Open Day in October. This will give everyone a chance to look at our park in detail.

As I will be standing down as Chairman this will be my last report for the newsletter. I am grateful for the positive feedback. I thank the committee for their support since taking on the role as well as the editors of the newsletter, as I am certainly not early with my report, and thank them for their patience and their tireless efforts.

Cheers and good luck,

Andrew Zanker, Co-Chair LCDTA

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

Laura Folk Fair

# Quiz Night

Friday 10th August 7.30pm

@ Laura Civic Centre

BYO Drinks & Supper Plate  
(Nibbles supplied)

\$10 per head 6 people per table Proceeds to go  
towards  
Laura Folk Fair 2019

To book a table or a seat contact:  
Sue Scarman: 0418 844 935  
Barry Harvie: 8663 2187



LAURA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM ASSOCIATION INC.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY 22nd AUGUST 2018**  
**7.30PM**

**LAURA CIVIC CENTRE**

This is the committee that works voluntarily on YOUR behalf to provide facilities for this community and for the many visitors that enjoy a stay

You are encouraged to come along to hear about the completed and ongoing projects around Laura and help with the planning as we make strategic plans for the next five years and beyond

***We have a number of positions vacant that need filling, so please come and be part of this important community group to help shape the future of Laura and its surrounding area***

A light supper is provided after the meeting



**Many Hands Make LIGHT Work**



## 2019 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.

This year we will again have the calendar formatted at the printer in Port Pirie. This means that all Calendar entries and payments are needed no later than September 30th 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](mailto: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, 3 months \$70, 6 months \$150, 12 months \$200

*Concessions available*

Enquiries and application forms available from the Laura Post Office or call **Deb Palmer: 0408 082 614.**



**Southern Flinders Health Advisory Council:  
(SFHAC)**

## **Annual General Meeting**

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at 7pm**

**Laura Hospital Activity Room**

**Community members very welcome**



## LCDTA news:

The LCDTA A.S. Condon Memorial Golf Day was held on Thursday 19th July 2018. This event has been held for the last 22 years at the picturesque Laura Golf Course.

It was an Ambrose competition with an attached fee of \$80 per team of four players. Eight Teams competed, with teams from Port Pirie, Jamestown, Georgetown, Crystal Brook and Laura locals.

A great day was had by all, some welcome rain fell later in the afternoon.

Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea was provided by the ladies. Many thanks to Marg Thomas, Denise Higgins, Lorraine Griffin, Jenny Filemon, Kerrilyn Elmer and Chris Lines for all their work and everyone who provided food for the day.

Championship winners: Golden North Team  
Runner Up: Georgetown Hotel Team.

Handicap winners: North Laura Hotel team  
Runner up: Kate Combe Team

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.

\$2,400 was raised for the community, which is a great achievement.

After 22 years the event is still a goer! Well done everyone.



*Many thanks to our Sponsors for their ongoing support*

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- MF Fudge Electrical
- Mid North Air Con.
- North Laura Hotel
- Northern Machinery
- Peter Condon
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- Stevens Motors



## **Media Release 12 June 2018**

### ***Keeping the Community Up to Date in the Northern Areas Council***

Following the recent Community Survey, the Northern Areas Council are looking to further increase engagement with the local community, and reach the large contingent of approximately 100 volunteer based not-for-profit groups in the Council area, with the launch of two new features on their recently updated website.

The features include a Community Contact Register where groups are able to register their current contacts so that Council is better able to streamline information. In addition, there is an Events Calendar that will list any upcoming community events, as well as Council related events such as meetings and forums through to dog and cat microchipping days.

The Community Contact Register enables organisations and groups to submit details online of their office holders and/or key contact people, as well as any facilities they manage that are available for hire by the community.

Organisations and groups are encouraged to log on to [www.nacouncil.sa.gov.au](http://www.nacouncil.sa.gov.au) and click on the Community Contact Register, to enter and submit their details online. For those who may not have internet access, please visit or call one of the Northern Areas Council offices at Jamestown, Gladstone or Spalding and the friendly staff will be able to assist you.

As part of the process, Council are looking to provide regular community updates, to ensure that groups within the Council area are up to date about upcoming Council activities and also the various grant programs which may be available to assist them.

Chief Executive Officer Colin Byles said "with such a large number of volunteer groups in the Council area and often changes to the roles of President, Secretary and Treasurer from one year to the next, it can be a challenge to make sure we have the most up to date information.

What the register does, is allow each group to provide us with their updated details so that we can make sure we are able to provide regular updates on happenings in the Council area, as well as providing key information such as upcoming grant funding opportunities."

Organisations and groups are also encouraged to submit their upcoming events via the online Events Calendar. Community events such as Annual Shows, Community Fundraisers, Charity events, Laura Folk Fair, and Community Christmas Pageants and parties can then be included. Council events including Council meetings, Community Forums, Dog and Cat microchipping, Office closure dates over the Christmas period and more, will all be available to the community at a glance, when logging onto the website.

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For more information about this article – please contact:

**Colin Byles**

**Chief Executive Officer**

colin.byles@nacouncil.sa.gov.au, Phone: 8664 1139



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## Rocky River Garden Club news:

**Holowilliena bus trip:** *Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup>* - there are still seats available for this trip, you are welcome to join us.

### ITINERARY:

- Early Bus from Booleroo Centre - departure time tba.
- Holowilliena - morning tea and tours
- Lunch and tours
- Return bus trip to Booleroo Centre

**COST:** \$40 deposit immediately, AND \$30 bus fare on the day  
(Bus cost could be lower if the bus is fully booked)

Further details and bookings please contact President Penny Robinson:  
08 8667 2096



## Save the Date for the Caravan Park Open Day:

Come and visit the Caravan Park and see the facilities available for our visitors.

**Sunday 14th October 2018**

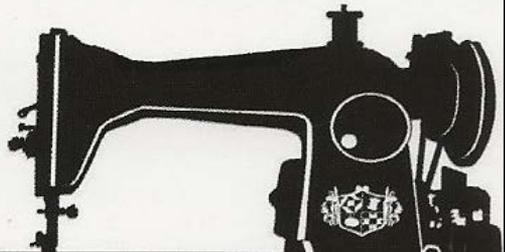
Sausage Sizzle lunch provided.

More details in the next issue of the Laura Standard

## SEW MAID

**Pamela Wastell**  
sewing & Alterations

Laura & Districts  
By Appointment



**0408825545**



## Rocky River Garden Club news:

### July 9<sup>th</sup> Zone Get Together:

This twice-yearly Garden Club gathering was by invitation to all the mid-north regional garden clubs and was hosted by the Rocky River Garden Club at the Wirrabara Institute.

A thank you from President Penny Robinson follows:

“Many, many thanks to our wonderful club members who put on such a great day for our regional sister Garden Clubs. Please, will you thank your menfolk who gave us the critical ‘manpower’ we needed for the preparation day and tidy up. Bernie and Beth from Laura hosted the Trading table, which was filled with greenery.

The Wirrabara Sporting Reserve catered very successfully, with a delicious and filling roast and dessert, and all our guests were very appreciative. We had a great representation from the other clubs, and it was topped off by two very informed and interesting speakers, Pat Tolan on heritage roses, and then Terry Scoop on succulents.

We will all now be on the look out for old roses in our local towns and byways, to add to the Australian Heritage Roses collections. We enjoyed the large company of *green thumbs* and thank all the other regional clubs who came and helped make this such a successful day.”

*Hello friends from Laura and surrounding areas.*

*Are you a singer who has nowhere to sing?*

If you are, we would love you to come and sing with our choir, the

**SOUNDS of LAURA**

Please come and join us - We sing a variety of genres and meet together during school terms on

**Mondays 1pm-3pm at the Baptist Church, Laura**

The *only* expense is a small weekly fee of \$5 to cover costs

**and your 1st week is absolutely free!**

**For more information, phone**

Ann Marie Holt: 8663 2614 or Anne Hansen: 0429 866 242

**Hope to see you soon!**



## **Laura Folk Fair Chairman's Report to AGM 2/7/2018:**

Laura Folk Fair 2018 was a successful weekend. The weather was a little warm, but this was reflected in the crowd numbers with estimates in excess of 15,000.

A great line up of entertainment with variety for the whole family with the high-quality kid's entertainment being another success story for us. The Amazing Drumming Monkeys were once again a draw card for the kids and parents alike. The petting zoo was also popular. Our two stages over the weekend had a great line up of entertainment including Back in Black ACDC cover band entertaining a crowd of over 1000 people on Saturday night until late. Other regulars and new artists entertained the crowds over the whole weekend. An added bonus this year was the Battle of the Blues Bands on the main stage on Sunday. In all, entertainment to suit all tastes.

With more research the variety of stalls was improved with several new stall holders joining a great band of regulars providing a better selection of local and mostly Australian products. New and established food stalls were well patronised and the local fundraising groups were all pleased with their efforts which reminds us how much this great local event does for the region as a whole.

The Zanker family was successful again in the ice cream eating contest.

The Laura Agricultural Bureau's inaugural Boot Toss was a resounding success with a massive 32+metres being the winning Toss. Something for everyone to aim for next year.

I would like to thank the hardworking committee for the hours put in both leading up to the event and the massive hours committed to what amounts to a very long weekend. Your support is tantamount to Laura Folk Fair's continuing success. Special thanks must also go to all the great team leaders and their willing workers.

An even bigger thank you goes to the Laura community who each year turns out to set up and pack up the mall and surrounds, in particular the younger volunteers this year who made the job so much more efficient.

Finally, I would like to make mention of two stalwarts of Laura Folk Fair as they leave the committee. Barry Harvie and Geoff Lange have been on this committee for many years and have put in a lot towards the ongoing success of the Fair. We will miss you both at our committee meetings, but I know we will continue to see you around the traps helping do all those little but vital jobs you have done for such a long time.

**Thank you all!**

Sue Scarman, Chairman

**2018 Laura Folk Fair Committee:**

Sue Scarman - Chairman, John Kitto - Vice Chairman

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Peter Hay - Treasurer, Anna Bottrall - Secretary,  
Laura Lines - Assistant Secretary, Cr. Geoff Lange - NAC Delegate,  
Jim Lynch, Jon Hawkins-Clarke, Amy Simons, Hans Simons



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### 2018 Council Elections

Voting in council elections is open to a broader range of people than State and Federal elections, including non-Australian citizens, non-resident landlords and businesses. Enrol now to have your say.

Councils are part of the democratic framework of Australia. The community elects their council members every four years and the next general elections happen in November 2018.

Unlike State and Federal elections, it is not compulsory to vote in South Australian council elections. However, council elections are the biggest single voluntary civic participation activity in the state with nearly 360,000 people voting in the 2014 council elections.

Another important difference from State and Federal elections is that all voting in council elections is done by post. Enrolled voters receive a voting package through the mail and return their votes in a reply paid envelope.

#### Key Dates

Roll Close	5pm Fri 10 Aug 2018
Nominations Open	Tues 4 Sept 2018
Nominations Close	12 noon Tues 18 Sept 2018
Mail out of voting materials	Mon 22 – Fri 26 Oct 2018
Close of Voting	5pm Fri 9 Nov 2018

## Then and Now:

### The Range Lands of the Northern Bee Keepers - # 3

#### BEETALOO:

In 1844 the 'Beetaloo Pastoral Run' was leased over land which would later become the hundred of Howe. This land has often been referred to as "The Garden Of The North" and has made a major contribution to food production in our region.



Before the commencement of the building of the Beetaloo Reservoir Dam in December 1885, settlers had moved into the Beetaloo Valley area bringing with them European honeybees to fertilise fruit, nut and vegetable crops.

Mr. CA Stark advised that in the early 1890's he was relinquishing farming and dairying to pursue gardening. His Beetaloo Gardens of *Springvale* and *Orangevale* became well known across the region for the amazing range of produce including many varieties that required honeybees to be successfully pollinated. Not only did Mr. Stark change his land use he also became a very successful beekeeper and was one of the first beekeepers in the North to demonstrate the 'New Process' of the Langstroth Hive and honeycomb production as well as a modern honey extraction technique.

Mr. Stark was reported in several SA newspapers in January 1885 as having released fish into a stream at Beetaloo as a trial – (prior to the Beetaloo Reservoir) (ref- Quote from the Wallaroo Times 04/03/1885) – ***We had almost forgot to mention that Mr. Stark has a number of fish in the stream, amongst these being the silver, gold and trout so that ere long we will go trout fishing at Beetaloo.***

I wonder if Mr. Stark could have imagined the significant importance the Beetaloo catchment country for future beekeepers and 133 years later after releasing fish into the stream at Beetaloo that not only would there be a reservoir but it would be open to anglers for recreational fishing.





## Laura Community Caravan Park news:

Hi to all.

The Cabin bookings are holding up very well and we have seen no noticeable slowing of bookings due to North Laura Hotel opening their accommodation units. Sites are slow but steady, perhaps due to the cold weather.

The Victoria Street entrance is now lit with solar lights to enable late-comers to easily find the park.

We have been steadily continuing with our ongoing maintenance to get ready for spring, the Harris family reunion, Christmas and next year's Folk Fair and Easter.

Thanks to all our Volunteers who have helped make the Caravan Park a comfortable and quiet place to stay for our visitors.

Hoping all stay safe.

Trish & Peter.



# NETTLE

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## **Friends of the Heysen Trail Group End-to-End 9 stay in Laura over the June Long Weekend:**

The Friends of the Heysen Trail Group – End-to-End 9 are regular visitors to our area, basing themselves in our area and walking a section of the Heysen Trail.

This year the LCDTA catered a dinner for the group and those present were entertained when a member of their group - John Hockey (seen standing below) performed the CJ Dennis poem “Doreen”.

Fifty-two people enjoyed the dinner provided and the ambience of the evening. Many thanks to those who provided food and worked on the night. The LCDTA raised in excess of \$900 from this catering event.



### **An overview of Heysen Trail Group Activities:**

There is a new End to End group starting each year at Cape Jervis ...

The complete Heysen Trail is completed over 6 years as day walks during the cooler months of the year.

From Cape Jervis to Kapunda (the first two and a half years) it is one Sunday a month.

From Kapunda to Quorn (the next two and a half years) it is Saturday and Sunday – once a month.

The Quorn to Parachilna Gorge final section is generally done over two week-long trips north.

Walks are organized by driving to the end point of the day's walk to be met by a bus.

The bus then transports everyone back to the start point.

The final walks have a bus with us the whole time so the bus drops us off at the start of day and meets us at the end.

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This bus comes from Adelaide so that we do not need to drive north for the final weeks.

Thus a new group of End-to-End walkers will pass through Laura each year. We are happy for people to join us anywhere along that length.

The Friends also have a program of walks each weekend.

A sub-group based in Burra also conducts a program of walks.

People wanting to know more about the Heysen Trail and walking the Heysen Trail can find out via:

heysentrail@heysentrail.asn.au or [www.heysentrail.asn.au](http://www.heysentrail.asn.au).

Street Address:

Suite 212, 2nd Floor Epworth Building  
33 Pirie Street, Adelaide, South Australia 5000  
Phone: (08) 8212 6299



### Laura Bowling Club news:

Bowls SA has established a new elite Super League competition which will be played over five weeks commencing on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July. All games will be played at the Salisbury Bowling Club. One game each week will be live streamed through Bowls SA Facebook page.



There are eight franchise teams throughout South Australia with country regions aligned with metropolitan clubs. Each team nominated six marquee players from country and metropolitan clubs and then in June, a state-wide draft, similar to the AFL draft, was conducted where each team selected another six players to make a full squad of twelve bowlers. This is the first time anything like this has been done in Australia. It is a new and exciting concept with triples, pairs and singles played over eighteen ends each week.

Laura Bowling Club is well represented in this competition with three players selected in the inaugural franchise teams, Karin Lynch and Todd Brand were picked up by the Northern Knights and Jake Prior by the South East Spartans. Max Kleinig, another local, was also picked to play with the Western Rogues. Geoff Brand has been appointed by Bowls SA as Coach of the Northern Knights.

If you would like more information about this new competition you can go to the Bowls SA website where they have heavily promoted the competition with full details of each team and the players selected.





# RRHAS

## Laura Cemetery:

Several decades ago most rural cemeteries were virtual wildernesses. However, in recent years an increased interest and responsibility shown by local government, the availability of some funding and labour from various sources, and of course modern weed control measures, have seen that change. Our Laura Cemetery in particular is now a much less treacherous place than it once was.

The Laura Cemetery has often been referred to as a '*virtual forest of cast iron*'. This is in part due to the many locally made cast iron fences and railings made at the Keipert Foundry in Laura.

Some people may have noticed a new shelter and noticeboard near the entrance of the cemetery. A bequest from noted South Australian regional historian Maggy Ragless made this possible.

In recent years' members of Rocky River Historic & Art Society have been active in checking our cemetery records, and in placing aluminium markers on gravesites. The latter has been a labour of love by Neil McKenzie who used a metal stamper to create the nameplates. Northern Areas Council has funded some new survey work done by Max Sayer of Adelaide, some of which was pro bono.

Over a period of several years RRHAS members and volunteers, led by Rhonda Pech have spent countless hours checking the cemetery records against other records (such as Genealogy SA) and newspaper reports to create a more accurate index to the cemetery. Those involved have been Anne Schaffner, Robert Pech, Paul Slattery and Erica Arbon.

Finally, a new revised cemetery index can be seen in the display cabinet. The value and significance of this new resource cannot be underestimated as generally speaking the first 'port of call' for a family historian is the local cemetery. And until now, such visitors have had no idea where to look for a specific grave, other than to trudge along every row. And of course not all graves have headstones, some being unmarked.



As a Society, and as a community, we can take pride in this latest historical resource which will be a great help to visitors to the cemetery. As with any research or publishing activity, E&OE applies (errors and omissions excepted). RRHAS would be pleased and grateful, to hear of any discrepancies which may still exist, despite the huge and careful effort that has been put into this project.



## Rocky River Lions Club news:

Lions Club members organised the holding of a Boat Licence course at the Laura Sporting Reserve on June 27<sup>th</sup>. Twenty one participants from around the Southern Flinders Ranges gained their licence. Our local Lions were assisted by Lion Shaun Davidson of Port Augusta Lions and the session was led by an official from DPTI. All proceeds, totalling \$700, were donated to the Laura Folk Fair committee. Plans are in hand to hold another session soon.

The 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Changeover Dinner of Lions was held at the North Laura Hotel on June 26<sup>th</sup>. The elected Club's executive for 2018/19 comprises of Tim Zander (President), Sam Evans (Immediate Past President), Greg Wheeler (Secretary), Sam Smith (Treasurer), Colin Raison (1<sup>st</sup> Vice President), Allen Weston (2<sup>nd</sup> VP) and Bevan Smith (3<sup>rd</sup> VP).

Any community member, male or female aged 18 years or over, is encouraged to consider becoming a member of Lions. If you would like to see what it is all about, are interested in serving our community and would enjoy the social side of mixing with like-minded people, please contact any Lions member for more information. Rocky River Lions cover the district ranging from Stone Hut to Yacka.



Stone Hut Bakery, selling quality pies and sausage rolls, including the famous crocodile pie.

With over 14 different types of pies, you will definitely find your favourite. Try our gourmet pie range: Wild boar, Crocodile or Seafood. We sell the best pies in the universe.

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Email: [stonehutcottages@gmail.com](mailto:stonehutcottages@gmail.com)





## Laura and Districts Probuss Club news:

Probuss continues to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month.

In May we met on board a Hanley Bus for our 26<sup>th</sup> Birthday. We travelled to Waikerie for a delightful 3 hour luncheon cruise upstream on the Murray. Beautiful sunny weather and scenery - a great day!

June's meeting was held at Gladstone where two officers from the Australian Border Police gave us a brief insight into their work to protect our borders from the illegitimate movement of people, flora, fauna, drugs, goods/economy, firearms, etc. They rely on the local public to report to them on suspicious questions (e.g. where would they find certain birds) and sightings – e.g. unusual activities on beaches, remote areas and hidden camps and fuel dumps, evidence of interference with flora and fauna, unexplained lights of signalling, etc.

Late June a small group of members went to Bright for a good value-for-money trip and a lovely change of scenery.

We met at Laura in July and heard Roger Hunt of Stone Hut talk of his involvement with the Mt Remarkable Friends, a group of volunteers who have recently received \$5000 to control the briar rose outbreak. He also explained the importance and management of developing land without harming the fragile environment. Very interesting!

August's Meeting will be at Wirrabara and later that month a 2-day trip to Monarto Zoo is being planned.

## Contacts:

- **Council Office** Jamestown 8664 1139, 1300 664 108  
(Please Note: The 1300 number 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
- **Manager, 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



My Health Record

## My Health Record:

Local information sessions were held recently, if you missed these, detailed information can be found at [www.myhealthrecord.gov.au](http://www.myhealthrecord.gov.au)

## 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](http://www.laurasa.com.au)

Co-Chairmen:     Andrew Zanker 0438 118 227 &  
                           Denise Higgins 0428 222 610  
Secretary:        Darren Pech     0429 705 520  
Newsletter Editor: Newsletter Committee

Reports, articles and advertising for the **October** Newsletter can be submitted by email to [lcdta5480@gmail.com](mailto:lcdta5480@gmail.com) or delivered to The Laura Soap and Gift Shoppe no later than **5pm Friday 28th September 2018**. Receiving articles, photos and 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 and printed in colour by visiting [www.laurasa.com.au](http://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 28th Sept 2018**



**LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**  
OF AUSTRALIA

*where love comes to life*

## Are you afraid of the dark?

How would you cope with being in the dark in a cave close to one kilometre underground, about three kilometres into the Tham Luang cave system at Chiang Rai, Thailand?

What would be your state of mind after one whole day in the dark?

After two days in the dark, after three days in the dark (remembering that the term 'day' is now just a time frame – no such thing as daylight)?

What would be the state of your mind after four days in the dark, after five days in the dark, after six days in the dark – would you be thinking of all your plans for the future, or would it be more basic – in the moment, 'How will I survive this?' Darkness is now all that you know and the confines of the space you are in. And the darkness continues on, day seven, day eight.

There are times when life throws something at you that is totally unexpected? You could be in a dark place. It could be a medical diagnosis, an accident to a family member or friend, a major financial loss, the break-up of a long-term relationship, the loss of one's faculties, being let down by a close friend, failure to achieve a life-goal, drought, flood, fire, or whatever you name.

There is a whole community of people around you but it seems to be the nature of times of trial or adversity we each have to confront our own personal fears.

When we do sooner or later a 'day nine' arrives, light appears, and there is hope and a future. For Christians that Light has already appeared a long time ago in Palestine. He experienced the whole gamut of human testing, trial and adversity and finally death. Yet, ever since we have somewhere to go. We are not alone in the dark – He has promised to be there with us in the dark. There is always a glimmer of light and hope. We don't need to be afraid of the dark. Darkness has been overcome by the Light!

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