



**February 2020 Issue 31**

Welcome to the first edition of the 2020 Laura Standard for what will hopefully be a prosperous decade for our town and our area.

The 'Party in the Park' was a little different this year. A forecast of a mid 40 temperature forced the hand of the committee into a late change of venue. We would like to sincerely thank the Civic Centre Committee for the offer of using the facilities and to all the volunteers who helped with getting the word out, setting up and packing down.

We hope that all those who attended had a great time.

As part of the 'Party in the Park' this year a special presentation was made to Nita Klemm to honour the tireless work she has done over the years tending to the roses in the arbour behind the skate park.

The Gazebo in the main street is undergoing a facelift thanks to many volunteer hours. Fresh paint and a soon to be completed roof will have it looking brand new.

As a town we have had the recent good fortune to have an artist from Sydney staying at the caravan park. Not one to sit still, Bev and her husband Terry have been helping out around the Caravan Park and Bev has been brightening up the park with her murals. The LCDTA approached Bev with the idea of doing a mural on the public toilets near the CFS sheds in the main street. The mural is based on C J Dennis' 'The Ant Explorer' and the original illustrations by Rita Hall. Anyone who has stopped to have a look since it was completed in late December I think will agree it looks amazing. Many thanks to Bev.

The community calendar has had a massive makeover this year. The bright colours making it even easier to find the local business you are wanting to contact. We hope that everyone received a copy but if for some reason you've missed out there may still be some copies left at the Laura Information Centre.

On behalf of the LCDTA I hope everyone had a happy Christmas and a safe new year.

Gerald Higgins, Chairman LCDTA

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



## Letter to the editor

Dear Editor

### **Laura could save your life**

The road safety sign north of Laura is one of a series across the state. It has an image of a coffee cup and the message that **'Laura could save your life'**.

We are fortunate in Laura to have two businesses in the main street offering a friendly welcome along with serving coffee, so hopefully this message bears fruit in potentially saving lives and helping local trade. These businesses along with the antique shops and the recently established florist shop attract visitors to Laura.

However, apart from the concept of Laura saving lives, it is up to all of us to **save Laura**.

Business and commerce are not easy fields these days, and everywhere businesses are closing. Recent closures in the city include Jeanswest, and the legendary Harris Scarfe store which has traded since 1849. Whether it's Glenelg, Port Pirie or Jamestown, there are empty shops – it's not just a small town scourge.

Cont page 3.

From page 2.

But it's not just general shopping that keeps our businesses going – every EFT payment of an account that could have been paid at the Post Office is just as great a nail in the coffin is the Woollies truck visiting the town.

*E-commerce* is the curse of the modern era. Many other transactions done on the internet could be done through one of the bank agencies in Laura.

Laura people are indeed blessed to have the range of businesses that we have – just look at the listings on the Community Calendar. We are fortunate to have one of the cleanest and tidiest IGA stores in the state. Whilst protecting our local businesses we should also be mindful of those regional traders who serve our interests. Meg's Bookshop in Port Pirie is one of less than a handful of bookshops in country SA, and the regional hardware stores are a better option to the big green or red sheds in suburbia.

The last issue of the *Laura Standard* carried a description of the many developments in Laura during its first couple of years in the 1870s. It's up to us to ensure that when we celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> in 2022 that we have something to celebrate.

**We must support our local businesses.**

**Greg Slattery**

**Laura**

SH ♥ P  
LOCAL

*Remember, shopping locally all year  
long keeps our community viable!*



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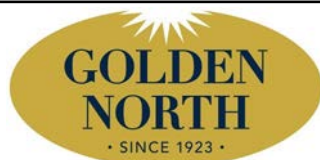
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## Stone Hut Community Christmas Donation.

Once again in December the Stone Hut Community got together to celebrate Christmas and wish one another well. It was a very pleasant evening, with plenty of great food, great company and good cheer. It has become a tradition at these gatherings to collect a donation in support of the Residents Lifestyle Program within the Laura Hospital. This year we were able to hand over to Julieanne Arthur, Director of Nursing, the sum of \$270.00.

*(The Lifestyle Program is overseen by a Life Style Coordinator Ms. Carmel Keller, and involves events and activities for residents supported by Volunteers as well as Nursing Staff.*

*Community members are also very welcome and encouraged to join activities through the Southern Flinders Friendship Group which is held at the Laura Hospital every fortnight on Wednesdays.)*

For Stone Hut it was a great way to end the year.



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**Government of South Australia**

Southern Flinders Health Advisory  
Council

## **Southern Flinders Health Advisory Council (SFHAC) Report Annual General Meeting**

The AGM of the SFHAC was held on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at the Crystal Brook Hospital. All positions have been filled and current community members are: Brian Higgins (Presiding Member), Catherine Klingner and John Slattery (Crystal Brook), Colin Raison (Gladstone) and Colleen Slattery and Lorraine Griffin (Laura). Jan Crawford and Lynn Duffy (Georgetown), have retired with Richard Stumpf (Crystal Brook) and Robyn Johnson (Laura) replacing them. Bronny Perry continues as staff representative with Kathy Webb as the Local Government representative from the Northern Areas Council and Kerry White as Local Member of Parliament Representative.

John Voumard, member of the Governing Board, Yorke & Northern Local Health Network attended the meeting and spoke about progress made with the new Regional Board.

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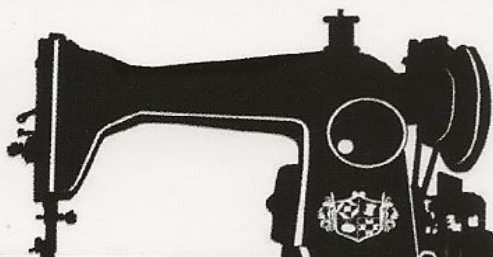
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## **LCDTA Community Activities**

### **Laura Party in the Park**

It was too hot and windy to be outside, so thanks to the Civic Centre Committee for inviting the Party to be a Party in the Civic Centre. A big thank you to the group of volunteers who spent the morning getting the Civic Centre ready for the event. We had a smaller crowd than usual, and those who attended had a good time.

With the cooperation of the Bowls ladies, the Tennis Club players and Father Christmas everything successfully moved inside. Thanks again to the Bowls ladies and the tennis players for the catering. Their yearly support is much appreciated.

Weather permitting we will return to the North Parklands for the 2020 Party in the Park.

### **Community Raffle**

The 2019 raffle was a very successful fundraiser for the LCDTA. A big thank you to all who contributed to the raffle prizes. An innovation for the 2019 raffle was to have two cash prizes, donated by the Caravan Park Committee. Prize winners included Stephanie Blesing, Karen Heness, Basil Higgins, Mally Kalisch, Darcy Cowin, Eddie McCallum, Marie Shinn and Steve from Napperby.

The raffle raised almost \$1700.00

### **Community Calendar**

The calendar has a new look, and feedback has been positive. The ongoing advertising support of businesses is important to producing the calendar. A big thank you to each business owner for your ongoing support.

Again, volunteers delivered calendars to the community and those with post boxes received their calendars via the Post Office - thanks to all deliverers.

At this time the profit is still being finalised. At this time we estimate the profit to be about \$1100.00.







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

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## LOCAL NEWS - Volunteers at work.

The gazebo in the median strip is undergoing a facelift, and in December our volunteers removed the old roof of the cement slats and replaced it with a new colour-bond roof. The capping will be the next project along with new railings and the floor to be painted.

Another project that is still underway is the repainting of the rose arbour and the refurbishment of the rose arbour lights.

All the projects that we take on could not have been possible without our volunteers, so the LCDTA would like to thank all volunteers that have been involved with all the projects that have been completed throughout the year.

We must thank Bev and Terry for the new mural on the public toilets it looks fantastic. They are in the process of painting more in the town. If you are interested in volunteering for any of our projects please contact Joyce Wode on 0437 345 211





## **The Laura Fair.**

In just two short months, The Laura Fair will again be upon us. Your committee is working hard to make it another great event, but as usual we will need a lot of volunteers to pull it off effectively. If you would like to put your name on one of the many rosters that need filling or are willing to help set-up/ pack-up the infrastructure, please let us know or for set-up/pack-up just turn up.

Last call for stallholder applications! If you are intending on having a stall at The Fair please get your application to us ASAP! They can be sent by email or dropped off into either The Laura Soap Shoppe or the Laura Post Office.

Over the Fair weekend we will have some exciting new Laura Fair merchandise in the way of hessian (yes that would be appropriate 😊) bags with our colourful logo or some funky sunglasses. Be proud and buy. Limited stocks will be available so get in early.

This year the street parade will be starting at 11.00 and the cars from the parade will be parking for display purposes along the left-hand lane of the western side of Herbert St. We hope this will be a popular move with the car owners, our patrons and also the traders and buskers in the Mainstreet of Laura.



# LAURA ROSE TAKEAWAY

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## Rocky River Lions News

The winner of the Lions Christmas Raffle was Matthew Bear, of TeaTree Gully, Adelaide.. Matthew is just four years old and, as you could imagine, was rapt to win the big trolley and all it contained.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Lions fundraiser by buying a ticket. All proceeds go towards Lions community projects.

The collection of sample grain by Rocky River Lions at the Gladstone Silo Complex has nearly wound up for this season. Proved to be a better season for grain receivals and over \$5,000 has been raised for community projects. Thank you to Peter Smallacombe who volunteered to move the grain trailers and to the friendly and helpful Viterra staff for emptying the grain containers.

Lions club of Rocky River are facilitating an information night on Thursday March 12<sup>th</sup> commencing at 7.30 pm at the Southern Flinders Regional Sports Complex Gladstone.

Guest speaker will be Professor Neil Piller who is giving a presentation on obesity, inflammation, diet, gut microbes and lymphatic system communications with the brain and the impact of trauma.

Neil Piller is an excellent speaker and world authority on the lymphatic system. This meeting is open to the public and is for anyone who is interested how the function of the lymphatic system affects autoimmune diseases like m.s., rheumatoid arthritis, cancers and diabetes as well as the general fitness levels of people.

Professor Piller is patron of the South Australian Lymphedema Association Support Group which will use this meeting to promote better health outcomes for sufferers of chronic Lymphedema.

People from all volunteer groups like CFS, Safecom, SES, Lions, Rotary and Apex and church groups and teachers and students are strongly encouraged to attend this community event on march 12th 2020



**Deadline dates for the Laura Standard Newsletter:**

The Newsletter team, together with the LCDTA wish to thank all contributors for their newsletter articles and advertising. In 2020 please continue to forward your articles, along with a logo to [lcdta5480@gmail.com](mailto:lcdta5480@gmail.com) by 5pm on the following dates:

**\*\*Mar 27th 2020 \*\*May 29th 2020 \*\*July 24th 2020 \*\*Sep 25th 2020**

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# **Dan**

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### Contacts:

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(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** 0418 844 935 or  
Sue.Scarman@NACouncil.sa.gov.au
- **Councillor Denise Higgins** 0428 222 610 or  
Denise.Higgins@NACouncil.sa.gov.au



## **LAURA RSL SUB-BRANCH ACTIVITY REPORT.**

This year the Laura RSL celebrated its Centenary year.

This activity was incorporated with our annual Christmas Dinner on the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

Dignitaries attending this function were Mr. Peter Condon our patron, the honourable Mrs Dorothy Kotz and husband Brian, our RSL district Co-ordinator Mr Leon Pollard and wife Jenny, Mr Paul Slattery our local military historian and guest speaker, Laura RSL executive committee members, RSL members and invited guests, an overall list of 56 persons.

The president welcomed all present and thanked Peter for his generosity to the RSL and also his support to the Laura district in general. The excellent renovation to the North Laura Hotel, the building of the Motel, creating more area jobs and help keeping Laura a progressive town.

Mr. Paul Slattery addressed the function with a well-researched and scintillating speech on the history of the Laura RSL. His speech covered all aspects of early history, the district's returned servicemen and women who worked and formed our RSL branch, mentioning many known family names that gave unconditional service for our country and in so doing forged their part in the history of our nation. It was confirmed in his speech that the RSL Laura Sub-Branch was one year late in celebrating our Centenary year. I referred to the 1919 date in the book "Laura Days" written in 1975 that now appears as being incorrect.

Paul, in his closing parts of his speech did mention the future of the RSL. In Laura, with lack of returning servicemen and women today, could see the demise of our branch like many other towns in South Australia have experienced. Laura district has shown a strong support for its Returned service men and women by becoming Affiliate members of our branch. This avenue of support is open to all reputable citizens of the district. Paul gave an excellent speech and it is with hope that it may be reprinted in a 'Laura Standard' of the near future.

The Xmas dinner was a great success. Luke, Georgina of the North Laura Hotel in conjunction with the Chef and staff served an excellent meal with great efficiency. All attending enjoyed the fare.

On completion of the meal Mr. Peter Condon gave a short speech of appreciation and connection of (his/Family) to the RSL, some amusing tales of his and associates younger years in Laura, also some plans for the future.

Overall the insight to the past and the hard yards that our earlier returned members have put in to start our Sub-Branch and created what we have today, should never be forgotten. Help us, have your say, enrol as a member, support our past for a better future.

Keep the flag flying,  
Trev McKerlie  
President Laura RSL







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## **Northern Areas History Group celebrates 20 Years**

Come to the party    Free admission, donations accepted!  
**Gladstone Town Hall    Sunday 15 March at 2pm**

The **Northern Areas History Group** represents the historical groups of ten towns (including Laura) within the geographical area of the Northern Areas Council.

Come along and celebrate 20 years of cooperation between our historical groups

- Short presentations highlighting an interesting aspect of each town– really diverse topics
- Displays by each town
- Early regional newspapers on display
- Display of a broad range of local history books from the region
- Local history books for sale

Greg Slattery  
Secretary/Co-Ordinator NAHG

**20th ANNIVERSARY**

## 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)

**Chairman:** Gerald Higgins 0431 754 429

**Secretary:** Darren Pech 0429 705 520

Newsletter Editor: Newsletter Committee

Reports, articles and advertising for the **Laura Standard** can be submitted by email to [lcdta5480@gmail.com](mailto:lcdta5480@gmail.com)

Receiving articles, photos and logos electronically assists in the production of the newsletter.

### Advertising:

Contact John 'Bugs' Cleggett on **0439 098 612** 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'**

Please keep articles short and concise as room is limited.

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	1/2 Page	1/3 Page
H 19.35cm x 12.75cm \$40.00	H 9.6cm x 12.75cm \$25.00	H 6.32cm x 12.75cm \$15.00

### Latest time to submit articles

for inclusion in the **April** edition of

The Laura Standard is

**5pm Friday 27th March 2020**

## There is a tension in the air!

What was your Christmas/New Year like? Full of chaos, over indulgence business and lots of people, and have you already broken those New Year resolutions you had set for 2020?

Now we are into the year proper where the routine of family, school, work, and sport return us to a 'normal' rhythm of life. Yet there is tension in the air as we wonder will this year be any different to 2019.

We so easily get caught up in being inwardly focussed when the world out there is crying out through the media with so many crises of life, bushfires, floods, coronavirus, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, drought, domestic violence against women and children, sexual abuse and everything else on the world stage that you can poke a stick at. Those with years of wisdom are in front of us in saying it has always been this way. In the process we lose track of the reality of how richly blessed we are.

All the above creates a tension in us so that we lose sight of what we do have and focus on what we do not have and everything else that is coming at us that is out of our control – life is not meant to be that way!

There is a beautiful series of words called the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12). *"Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth....."* They point us to the realization that as much as all treasures and pleasures of this world are enticing.

The deeper meaning of life is that there is a spiritual place to be where true blessing exists despite what life throws at us – at the heart and entree is a relationship with Jesus Christ the one who died on a cross, yet was raised to life to witness to the fact that real blessing is not just anchored in this life, but goes beyond it.

With this in mind we appreciate the blessings of this life (what we have, not what we do not have) - family, home, work, the physical blessings we have in this affluent nation of Australia. But also keep in mind the deeper blessings of life and that does give us peace of mind and comfort

Robin Zadow (Pastor)

Southern Flinders Lutheran Parish.

0427 881 540