



April 2020 Issue 32

Hello Readers,

This edition of the Laura Standard finds us in interesting times. As you would all be aware we are facing the unknown that is COVID19. While it's easy to think that we as a rural community are isolated from this pandemic, the truth is that we still need to be vigilant in following the directions of both Health authorities and the Federal Government. It would seem, looking at other countries and even some metro areas in Australia that this virus is quite easily spread.

While things may be a bit different for the next few months, with the cancellations or postponements of usual gatherings such as "The Fair" and Footy/Netball on the weekends, we as a community need to stick together. While large gatherings are out, we can still be supportive of our friends and family and of the wider community as we see them, while obviously still following the "social distancing" guidelines. We can also be supportive of our small businesses. Once all this panic buying (which spread faster than the virus) and forced closures have passed, our local businesses will need our patronage to keep afloat.

As a group the LCDTA will also have to find different ways to continue helping the community, with most of our fundraising ventures now either cancelled or postponed. We would like to thank everyone who had volunteered to either work in the Devonshire Tea stall at The Fair or provide scones. We look forward to being part of the The Laura Fair next year as it is a great fundraiser, not only for our group but many other local community groups/Schools and the like. At this stage we have also postponed the Laura Long Lunch, hopefully until later this year.

If we can all look out for each other and follow the directions of the authorities we will get through this as a community and a country. Support for mental health and well-being is available from [Lifeline](#) (13 11 14) and [Beyond Blue](#) (1300 22 4636).

Gerald Higgins
Chairman LCDTA

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Rocky River Lions News

Acclaimed Professor visits Gladstone



Professor Neil Piller, a leading authority on the human lymphatic system, who is based at Flinders University, visited Gladstone on Thursday 12th March. He delivered a highly informative and entertaining talk, on the anatomy and function of the lymphatic system, and how we need to look after it, to allow our bodies to function more efficiently, and as a result, allowing us to feel better, be more relaxed and to cope better with everyday life.

He explained that the lymphatic system, as well as removing some of the waste products that develop in the body tissues, produces cells and chemicals that are very important to the body's ability to fight infection and inflammation, and to combat depression and anxiety. Factors such as surgery, obesity, poor diet, lack of exercise and poor posture, can interfere with these functions, and so we can struggle to cope with chronic illness, and the pressures and stresses that we face each day.

The evening was attended by over 120 people from as far away as Whyalla, Orroroo, and Clare, as well as locally. The Lymphoedema support group of SA (of which Professor Piller is a patron) was well represented. The evening was organised and supported by the Lions Club of Rocky River, and funds raised by a voluntary gold coin donation were donated to the Gladstone Sports Complex to help in the construction of a children's playground. The help and support of the Sports Complex Committee was much appreciated.



Garden Art

The Laura Community Caravan Park are in the process of constructing new paths, gardens and planting trees on our 5 acres of land on the east side of the park and would love any old farm equipment you may have e.g. ploughs, windmills, wagon wheels and headers etc.

Please call Peter and Mandy on 8663 2269 if you have anything to donate

ANZAC DAY



ANZAC DAY 25th April 2020

Although we cannot gather this year to pay our respects to those fallen, we should take time at home and remember the Ode.

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them."*



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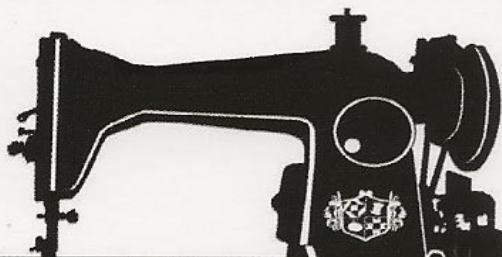


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Southern Flinders Health Advisory Council (SFHAC) – Community News - March 2020

The accreditation process will take place in the Yorke and Northern Local Health Network from 30 March to 3 April 2020. During this week each health unit along with community and allied health will be assessed against the national standards. The National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards provide a nationally consistent statement of the level of care consumers can expect from health service organisations.

The NSQHS Standards were developed by the Commission in collaboration with the Australian Government, states and territories, private sector providers, clinical experts, patients and carers. The primary aims of the NSQHS Standards are to protect the public from harm and to improve the quality of health service provision. The eight NSQHS Standards provide a nationally consistent statement about the level of care consumers can expect from health services.

The eight Standards are Clinical Governance, Partnering with Consumers, Preventing and Controlling Health Care Associated Infection, Medication Safety, Comprehensive Care, Communicating for Safety, Blood Management and Recognising and Responding to Acute Deterioration.

Julie Arthur Retirement

After spending four years as Executive Officer / Director of Nursing at Laura Hospital, Julie will be retiring in May. We thank her for her efforts and dedication during this time and wish her well in her retirement.

SFHAC and Community Funded Projects

The undercover gopher parking area at Laura Hospital has been completed along with refurbishment of the aged care entrance and the rose garden. An automatic door has been installed at the Outpatient entrance at the Crystal Brook Hospital.

All of these projects were funded from the SFHAC Capital Account.

An automatic door has been installed at the Roseview entrance of the Crystal Brook Hospital. We were fortunate to receive a very generous donation to cover the cost of the Roseview door from a local community group who wish to remain anonymous. On behalf of the community the SFHAC expresses appreciation for this donation.

THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LAURA SUB-BRANCH.

President's Report 2019-2020

This year the State RSL HQ has overcome its few short years of problems with maladministration and is now operating again as expected of its many members and the population in general. We now have a streamlined no frills service operated by a dedicated Board, Staff and Volunteers, as required by the RSL Constitution. Over the past few years the intent and goals of the RSL did not change, unfortunately the administration did not cope with the changing of the times and future requirements of the League. The problems have now been sorted and the RSL HQSA is acting under a new Strategic Plan and can go on doing what we do best, Advocacy, Services, Mateship, Commemoration and Sustainability for our Returned Service men & women, promoting the military history of our Nation, and remembering our people who served for their country.

This year has been a commemorative years for RSL's throughout South Australia. Many RSL'S including Laura, celebrated their Centenary year. Our members had the pleasure of attending the Jamestown RSL centenary dinner that was a great success, well run in all aspects. All present enjoyed the evening and joined the camaraderie of the evening.

The **Laura RSL** combined its annual Christmas dinner with the centenary of the club. The attendance of dignitaries, **Mr Peter Condon our Patron, The Honourable Mrs Dorothy Kotz and Husband Brian Kotz OAM, Leon Pollard RSL Regional Co-ordinator and wife Jenny, Paul Slattery-Guest Speaker, and Dr Peter Byrne AM (MIL)**, invited guests and members numbered 58 and was more than adequately catered for in the marvellous new dining area of the **North Laura Hotel/Motel**.

The President opened the Day, and welcomed all attending, with a very special welcome to **Mr Peter Condon** for his overwhelming support and benevolence to our RSL and our township in general.

A special welcome was also mentioned of our oldest treasured members, **Mrs Marion Taylor, Mrs Cynthia Smith and Mr Jack Wallis**.

Paul Slattery, our Guest Speaker and RSL historian was introduced; he gave a very well researched rendition on the history of the Laura RSL. Paul covered all aspects of the Laura RSL, beginning, reason for and people involved,

First Laura RSL, new (present RSL), conflicts after WW1, running costs, and list goes on. A very exceptional, researched history and I congratulate him on this effort and for writing his book

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"A District's Sacrifice". Paul's research did disprove the book **"Laura Days"** that had the establishment of the Laura RSL in 1919. A copy of Pauls' speech will go into the Laura archives, and, if possible printed in The Laura Standard.

I thank all members involved in providing assistance to make the Centenary Dinner a success.

A special thank you to **Dorothy & Brian Kotz** for arranging, designing, printing and donating the Dinner invitations.

The meal that was served by **Luke & Georgina** at the North Laura Hotel was excellent. By the comments made after the Xmas Lunch everybody enjoyed the menu, drinks, and the quick and polite service from staff.

VALE

It is with sorrow that this year we lost two of our members.

Mrs Totty Hanley

Mr. Peter Clogg

All members offer their sincerest sympathy and condolences to their families **Rest in Peace.**

This year it has been a great pleasure to see our members recruit new Members and Affiliate members to our RSL.

We welcome to the RSL membership;

Patricia Belcher

Allan Woolford

Jean Amey

Carl Schmidt

Paul Slattery

John Cleggett

Maureen Schmidt

Peter Buczko

Kotchphon Buczko

Roger Stevens

Dawn Stevens

Barry Harvie

Eleanor Harvie

Cheryll Hanley

Robert Hanley

Robyn Johnston

Barry Hoepner

All members extend to you a very warm welcome and value your friendship in our endeavours of Remembrance and sustainability of the RSL.

Anzac Day last year was very well attended by our community.

Our special guest was the member for Stuart **Mr. Dan van Holst**

Pellekaan MP. The minister laid a wreath to the Fallen at the Cenotaph and on completion of the ceremony came back to the clubrooms and chatted with our community and members.

The traditional Breakfast and Rum was available to all. The comradeship of members and community certainly brings out patriotism on these days of Remembrance.

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The Remembrance Day ceremony was very well attended this year by the Laura Primary School and Community.

We thank the Laura Primary School for their attendance and participation in the laying of the Wreaths and joining in the comradeship in the Clubrooms after the Cenotaph ceremony. The barbecue sausages donated by Dorothy & Brian Kotz and splendidly cooked by Barry Harvie & Geoff Lange on the Barbie arranged by Milton Heffernan & Jamie Davenport. The dessert consisted of a **Golden North Single Dandy**, kindly donated by **Golden North Laura**. The pupils didn't need to be told a second time to try them. The organisation within the Clubrooms was exceptionally carried out by our Women Auxiliary and Volunteers, it is always a job-well-done and all members thank them for their great effort.

It is always a pleasure for our members and a credit to the community to see the students attend, especially, the Remembrance ceremony, acknowledging the sacrifices of our military personnel for our great country.

The members of the RSL thank the Principal and Staff for allowing the students to participate.

In August last year the Crystal Brook RSL commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan. The guest speaker Dr. Peter Byrne AM (Mil) spoke on his experiences of his tours in Vietnam. The content was exceptional, he spoke seriously of his tours mingled with humour and content certainly not heard in public previously. It certainly was an excellent insight into our Medical Units at war. The night was attended by a large crowd who listened intently and enjoyed the evening. This included a contingent of members from the Laura RSL

Thank you Peter for sharing your experiences.

The financial position of our Club is in a sound position as per the 2019-2020 Annual Financial Report. I thank our Treasurer/Secretary Heather McKerlie for her efforts throughout the year.

After many years of perseverance, we have finally completed the fence around the RSL building. The outcome has a tremendous effect, not only does it enhance the surrounds, including the main street, but at last our members have safety when entering and leaving the building. Many people put in a long continuous effort to see this project completed. A special thanks to the LCDTA for their efforts under very adverse conditions when erecting the fence.

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This year I thank the members who have helped over the previous twelve months and kept the Laura RSL on an even keel, Mrs Christine Kalisch, Senior Citizens, Mr. Brian Beyer and our Executive Committee members. The RSL really appreciates the efforts these people put into our Club.

2019 being our Centenary year, it would be very remiss of me not to thank the many members who instigated the Laura Chapter of the RSL. The names are too many to list, but are still well known in the community through their progeny. Their legacy of Remembrance, I hope, will be carried on through our RSL Photo gallery.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

I wish all our members and friends good health and fortune for the future.

Trevor McKerlie
President 2019-2020



PROBUS NEWS

We had our AGM earlier this month. For some years now our club have been sharing the 'jobs' around with each town taking turns. It's been working well.

This year it was Laura's turn to take on the roles of President (Ruth Combe) Secretary (Lorraine Griffin) and Treasurer (Cynthia Prior)

Our first Meeting for the Year was in February and the guest speaker was once again Peter Smallacombe. Peter spoke about the bushfires earlier this year and the CFS involvement. All very interesting. 20 SA trucks went over to NSW early in the season and came home with approx. \$250,000 of damage . . . smashed body work and windows where trees had fallen on them, damage after reversing into a tree, blistered paint work and melted plastic/rubber. He mentioned that some deaths should not have happened . . . you can replace homes but not people . . . fact – most people who choose to stay have no insurance! He also said

- We should all have a Bush Fire Survival Plan
- We should all have copies of Wills, Birth certificates, Insurance papers, Bank statements and other important papers on a memory stick to save time. He is hoping the Government will bring in fuel reduction laws soon.

Laura Bowling Club News

The Laura Bowling Club has once again had a very successful season. In Saturday Pennant Laura finished top of the ladder in Div. 1 Boucher and 4th in Div. 2 O'Shaughnessy while in the Thursday Women's Pennant Laura Black finished 2nd and Laura Red 5th in Div. 1 Bullock.



Saturday Pennant Finals Div. 1 Laura defeated Crystal Brook and moved directly into the Grand Final looking for a three-peat of premierships while Div. 2 O'Shaughnessy defeated Wirrabara and then lost to Peterborough in the Preliminary Final. The Thursday Women's Pennant Laura Black defeated BHAS to go straight into the Grand Final.

Unfortunately that is where it all stops. Following a directive from Bowls Australia and Bowls SA due to the Coronavirus COVID-19 all bowls have been suspended by NWBA Board. This has resulted in Grand Finals scheduled for Saturday 21st March and Thursday 26th March being postponed. A decision as to when or if these games will be played and possible results has not been determined at this time. Hopefully the Finals can be completed in the next few weeks.

Club Championship Singles and Pairs have been played for 2020. In the Women's Singles Leanne Tenney defeated Karin Lynch in a very tightly contested final, Leanne going on to be runner up in the Champion of Champions Women's Singles played at BHAS. In the Men's Pairs Championship Geoff Brand and Todd Brand defeated Daniel Kerr and Steven Brown in the final. Geoff and Todd went on to win the NWBA 2020 Champion of Champions Pairs played at Georgetown in February defeating Port Pirie in the final.

The Men's Singles Championship resulted in a family affair with Todd and Geoff Brand playing off in the final. Todd defeated Ben Hopgood in the semi-final while Geoff defeated Al Stewart in the other semi-final. In a very even final with scores fluctuating and being level on numerous occasions, Geoff finally edged ahead in the later ends against Todd winning his 3rd Club Championship Singles.

Congratulations to all our Club Champions. Regrettably again due to COVID-19 our Club Presentation and Wind Up scheduled for Saturday night 21st March was also postponed to a later date. It is a disappointing end to what has been a fantastic and extremely successful season for the Laura Bowling Club. This however is understandable given current circumstances in Australia and around the world which are unprecedented. Most importantly follow guidelines and please remain healthy.

Geoff Brand



Photo Above: Geoff Brand, Todd Brand with the president North Western bowls Mr Brenton Badenoch.

Photo Below: **Laura's Premiership Winning Cricket Team.**
 Jaxon Brand, Brad Jackson, Darryl Boylan, Dale Tenney, Nick Palmer, Riley Fuss, Koby Millington. Jaran Turner, Rick Willis, Elliot Sumner, Michael Gaunt, Andrew Fleming, Will Smart



News from the Region

David Spiers MP, The Minister for Environment and Water attended a meeting held at Melrose with key stake holders on Friday 20th March 2020 in relation to the Southern Flinders Ranges National Park and the upgrade of trails.

The Mawson Trail was one of the trails mentioned in the meeting.

This particular trail passes through our township of Laura.

This announcement has a significant positive impact on the Southern Flinders Ranges as visitor numbers will increase and opportunities of new business ventures.

The following Media Release from the Premier Steven Marshall MP was printed in the Sunday Mail on March 8th 2020.

Hon Steven Marshall MP Premier

Eco-tourism turbocharged in post bushfires stimulus

South Australia's iconic nature-based tourism sector – from pristine national parks to world-class visitor attractions, such as Kangaroo Island and the Flinders Ranges – will benefit from a major Marshall Liberal Government funding injection, to help grow the economy and create jobs in the wake of the devastating bushfires, drought and ongoing impacts of coronavirus.

Premier Steven Marshall unveiled details of the Government's new *Parks 2025* plan – a once-in-a-generation strategy to activate nature-based tourism, and fast-track the recovery of vital regional economies, hard hit by national and international events – with an initial \$22 million investment.

The initial funding will be directed to:

Seal Bay Conservation Park, Kangaroo Island (\$7 million)

A new world-class visitor centre;

An upgraded boardwalk and interpretation services;

Expanded car and coach parking.

The Southern Flinders Ranges National Park (\$5 million)

Developing an international mountain bike destination at Mt Remarkable;

Upgrading trails for hiking, cycling and horse riding, including a new iconic multi-day hike;

To upgrade visitor facilities.

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Ediacara Fossil Experience (\$3 million)

To create a major visitor experience at Nilpena to showcase our unique Ediacaran fossils which are 550 million years old.

Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park (\$1 million)

To renew visitor infrastructure and experiences in partnership with traditional owners.

Cleland Wildlife Park (\$1 million)

To build a new purpose-built koala hold facility.

Nature-Based Tourism Co-investment Fund (\$5 million).

For more information about Parks 2025 visit:

www.parks.sa.gov.au/parks2025





Laura Fair News

The Laura Fair unfortunately has needed to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is going to have a huge impact on the economy of Laura and the region as a whole. We had a study done last year by Regional Development Australia which worked out The Laura Fair equates to a direct spend of \$510k of local region dollars, and \$260k visitor dollars with \$81k overnight accommodation dollars equating to \$851k direct spending. RDA calculated the total impact on the region's economy is around \$1.1 - \$1.2million. Just with these numbers you can imagine the impact of not holding the event is going to have on our economy. Not to mention all the other impacts this pandemic is creating.

Over the next 12 months the committee will be working towards the 2021 Fair and doing lots of fundraising events of which we would appreciate your support. Cancelling has come at a cost, hopefully not too significant (those figures are still rolling in), but we will be bringing you another great event in 2021.

On another note all together, understandably we are being asked about the change of name and how much it has cost. Not a lot of money is being spent on our name change, we just don't have it to spare. We are gradually replacing things as they wear out and all media items like logos and posters etc are designed in house and voluntarily.

The reason for the change is the 'Folk' part of the name is no longer relevant to what The Fair is today. The Laura Fair is not, and hasn't been for many years, a folk festival. We have had people come to the event only to be disappointed that it isn't a folk festival. We also have people who don't come because they think it is a folk festival. Therefore, the name change is to clear up the message we give out.

This change has been driven by the young members on the committee (of which I am proud to say we have a good number). It is their Fair in the future as well as today and I am very proud of their initiative and drive.

Sue Scarman

Chairman

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Laura Art Exhibition

Despite the cancellation of the Laura Fair, '*at this stage*' the Art Exhibition will be open in the Court House Gallery from 10am to 3pm on Saturday and Sunday of what would have been the weekend of the fair. Sadly and wisely there will NOT be an official Opening Night on the Friday evening. A register of visitors will be kept and safe distancing precautions implemented.

With so many activities being cancelled this is an opportunity to show some support for the artists and the exhibition – one of the longest running in rural SA.

As a community service in this dire time, this will be FREE ADMISSION – but donations will be accepted.

Please contact Greg Slattery on mobile 0417 877 145 to arrange a viewing.

Finding Former Farms

The Society has received funding from the History Trust of SA to undertake a study to identify former farmhouses or sites of them within the area of the former District Council of Laura.

These will be photographed and identified with GPS co-ordinates.

We have some good helpers with strong local knowledge, but other volunteers will be welcomed.

Photoshop Expertise

A volunteer is sought to photoshop a few old photographs suffering from scratches and other damage. These include some Laura Football Club teams of the early 1900s which may be significant display pieces for our 150th celebrations.

The Current COVID-19 Crisis

The spread of Coronavirus is the latest test of strength for Australian communities many of which have recently been affected by fires and floods. Although we are facing an unknown situation it has been said that the virus of fear may be worse than COVID-19 itself, with people levelling blame, hoarding groceries and generally being inconsiderate of others.

The effect of the polio epidemic of the early 1950s is still remembered by many in our local community. It was claimed to be among the most frightening diseases to affect Australians during the 20th century.

The incurable and unpredictable viral disease mostly targeted children and young people, and could cause permanent paralysis, even death.

In 1919 the Booyoolie Agricultural Society offered the show pavilion for use as an isolation hospital when the Spanish Flu hit Australia's shores.

The epidemic started in 1918, and was borne around the world by soldiers returning from WWI. Globally it affected 500 million people and claimed more lives than those killed in the Great War.

Sadly 540 South Australians were estimated to have died from the Spanish Flu.

Through the years other crises have affected the serenity of life in Laura. In 1894, 53 cases of diphtheria were reported in Laura of which six were fatal, and five years later in 1899 a typhoid epidemic made people aware of the need for a hospital.

In 1911 the vacant Baptist Manse was used as a temporary hospital during a diphtheria epidemic. The twelve victims were cared for by a nurse who had been sent by train by the Central Board of Health, whilst others were cared for in their homes. In 1912 the diphtheria epidemic resulted in the school closing for ten days and being fumigated.

In 1923 a public meeting resolved that it was desirable a cottage hospital be established, and in 1929 a far sighted decision was made to erect a new building rather than convert an existing one. After concerted long term fundraising the new hospital was opened in 1938 having been funded entirely by public subscription with no government or council contribution.

From the Town of Laura, Mayor's Annual Report 1894

"...the school outhouses...are still in an unsatisfactory condition...allowed an insufficient amount of disinfecting material... impossible to keep them in a thoroughly sanitary condition...pressure should be brought to the Education Department."

This is no reflection on our excellent local school in 2020, but the media has reported that similar situations have been reported recently in some suburban schools which have allegedly been lacking in toilet paper and sanitizer. What's new?

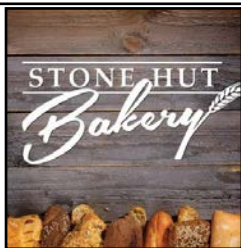


Laura Hospital opened by

Illustrated Current News. 1918.

TA Kleinig March 1938

(National Library of Medicine)



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Laura Community Caravan Park news:



Firstly Peter and Mandy would like to thank the volunteers that have come to the park to help make it look and run smoothly.

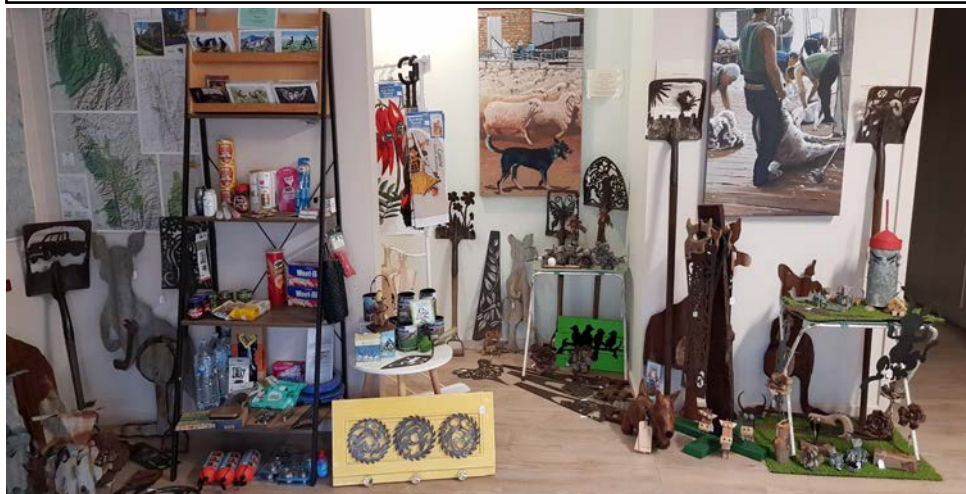
We couldn't do it with out you all.

We have almost finished the upgrade to the men's ablution block, and are starting on the ladies. Thanks again to those that have helped.

We are getting very good feed back for the cabins and the presentation of the park. The people also comment that the town is very friendly and clean.

We welcomed the Ulysses Motorcycle Club to the park for a get together and RNR, they spent the long weekend here in Laura.

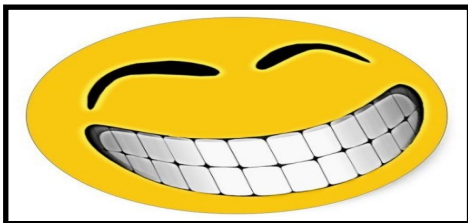
Below is a photo of our local artists work displayed and on sale here at the caravan park.



LCDTA Etiquette

As most are aware the LCDTA is a not for profit volunteer group.

The fundraisers including The Laura Standard and Community Calendar are for the benefit of our community and we appreciate those who volunteer, advertise and contribute in various ways. But like any other organisation we can't pay bills if our invoices are paid. So please pay within 14 days using the invoice number provided. If you need assistance please contact us. We support local business and the flow on effect of unpaid bills goes beyond the LCDTA to our community.



Deadline dates for the Laura Standard:

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 by 5pm on the following dates:

****May 29th 2020 **July 24th 2020 **Sep 25th 2020 ** Nov 20th 2020**

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** Gabby Swearse, 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



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: 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

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

Advertising:

Contact John 'Bugs' Cleggett on **0439 098 612** for details.

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Please keep articles short and concise as room is limited.

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The Laura Standard is

5pm Friday 29th May 2020

What is possible from COVID-19?

It seems like ancient history that Christian churches were once thriving communities. Whole families gathered together and worshipped each Sunday, and in turn a large part of the wider community was there also. For many centuries it was the centre of the community and Sunday was a day set aside which in turn set the whole rhythm of the week for family and the community.

With the rise of modernity, it seems that people deemed it was an unnecessary intrusion on the life of the individual and the community – there were more important things to pursue, my wants, my needs, onwards and upwards towards greater freedoms and success. People became trapped in the lie that all we needed was to be materially wealthy, successful and have lots of possessions and all would be well.

How blind have we been? Is it possible that COVID-19 will be the great leveller that brings us back to reality that there is more to life? I find it amazing that about ten years or so ago the SA Education Department brought out **WELLBEING FOR LEARNING AND LIFE: A framework for building resilience and wellbeing in children and young people**. One part of the framework is to; *Promote and support a 'wholechild' approach with consideration given to the physical, social, emotional, cognitive and spiritual dimensions of wellbeing*. In other places it talks about the 'mental and physical needs of children'. So, there is a recognition that there is a deep need inside of children for spiritual development. So how different is this for us as adults? Do we grow out of that need, or do we become blind to the need deep inside of us? A need that cannot be filled by anything else, whether it be wealth, fame, or all the material comforts of this life. Yes, there is a spiritual dimension to your life!

COVID-19 may take away everything in your life, but it cannot take away that deep spiritual dimension of your life. The simple question that fills that void is, "What, or in whom do you believe?"

As we approach Easter Day that is the pivotal question. For Christians there is the adamant response, "He is risen!" We recognise that we have a living LORD – Jesus the Christ, and that takes us beyond COVID-19 or anything else life has in store for us.

Robin Zadow (Pastor)

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