



October 2020 Issue 35

Hello Readers,

The LCDTA held their AGM on Wednesday 19th of August 2020 with a good turnout and some new faces.

The following committee members were elected:

CHAIRMAN – Gerald Higgins

VICE CHAIRMAN – Geoff Lange

SECRETARY – Darren Pech

TREASURER – Bevlee Reidy

AMENITIES – Joyce Wode

CARAVAN PARK – Barry Harvie

FUNDRAISING – Denise Higgins

INFORMATION CENTRE – Rhonda Pech

LAURA STANDARD – Wayne Gifford

STRATEGIC PLAN/COUNCIL LIASON – Sue Scarman

MEMBERS – Val Thomson, Bevan Smith and John Cleggett.

We didn't have any new members join this year (there is room on the committee if anyone is interested). John Cleggett has decided to step down as Editor of The Laura Standard and let Wayne Gifford take the reins, John will stay on to help Wayne with the Standard and we thank him for his efforts over the last year and into the future.

Lorraine Griffin has decided to retire from the group this year. Lorraine spent 10 years on the committee, completing 2 stints as Treasurer and one as Secretary in between. The LCDTA has achieved a lot in those 10 years and would very much like to thank her for all her efforts.

The War Memorial Project has now received just over \$10,000 in donations which is an amazing effort. We would like to thank everyone who has donated. The second stage of the project (Laser cut metal artwork) should start soon which I am sure will gather a lot of interest and be a great focal point in our town.

Continued page 2

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

Two of our local community groups, the Caravan Park and The Laura Fair Committee, were lucky enough to receive Commonwealth funding distributed through Northern Areas Council recently.

The Caravan Park has received \$20,000 to upgrade the internal roads and the Fair Committee will be erecting a new storage shed with the \$28,000 that they received.

The Stone Hut Rail Trail was allocated \$40,000.00 in this round of Commonwealth funding. With bike tourism becoming a strong income earner for our town this will add to our offerings as a destination stop over.

The Laura Party in the Park will be held back down in the Park, this year on the 18th of December (weather permitting). While it was a great effort to move the party to the Civic Centre at the last minute last year, on what was a horribly hot day. I think everyone will be looking forward to having it back in the park this year. The Christmas Raffle has always been a great fundraiser for our committee as we continue to work on maintaining and improving our town. We would like to thank everyone who has ever donated prizes to the raffle however if you were thinking of donating this year we have decided that to make things easier we would have prizes of either Cash or Vouchers. We would still love for people to donate and I am sure if you were thinking of donating a voucher it would be a great way of advertising your business.

Lastly, congratulation to our Local B Grade and Junior Colts footy teams for again making it to the Grand Final. Although they couldn't quite get the job done in what has been an interesting and difficult season for all, it's still a mighty effort.

Thanks
Gerald Higgins
Chairman LCDTA



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CORRECTION to the Laura Community Calendar

Recycle Rubbish Bin Dates

As many of you know the dates in the Community Calendar are “out” by a week.

Please use the following dates for the remainder of this year.

October 2nd, 16th and 30th.

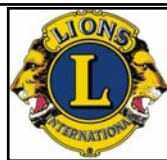
November 13th and 27th.

December 11th and 24th.

If you are looking for a hard copy of the NAC Waste and Recycling Calendar- 2020/21 they are available from the Laura Post Office and Laura Information Centre.

Thankyou for your understanding.

Rocky River Lions Report September 2020



Wednesday September 16th was the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Gladstone & Districts Lions Club in 1970. The Club changed its name to Rocky River Lions Club Inc. in 1988 to cover the area from Stone Hut to Yacka. Due to the restrictions of Covid-19 the planned commemoration celebrations have been postponed to a later date.

Lions have co-funded, in conjunction with the Australian Lions Foundation, the addition of further solar panels on the pool perimeter shelters at the Gladstone Swimming Pool. The project will substantially lower the cost of electricity for the running of the pool complex.

Rocky River Lions have purchased a defibrillator unit for installation at the testing station of the Gladstone Silo Complex. This will be available should the need arise for use by all users of the complex including employees and grain truck drivers.

A substantial part of the Club's annual fundraising is generated by the sale of sample grain at the silo complex and this medical unit will be available for use by workers throughout the region and beyond.

The Club is also most appreciative of the assistance given to Lions by Viterra staff.

Laura Fair News



Update on the 2021 Laura Fair

In this COVID world The Laura Fair Committee have had to make some tough decisions. At the September meeting it was decided that all planning of The Laura Fair 2021 be suspended until the December 2020 meeting, which includes seeking stallholder applications, entertainers, bookings and all the work that would normally be happening behind the scenes.

At the December 2020 meeting we will decide if we will be going ahead with the 2021 event. If the COVID restrictions that have been placed on our State are still in place to any extent, we will likely cancel the event.

If in December the committee decide that it's safe for us to go ahead and hold the event, we will be spreading the word and seeking applications, entertainers and booking all that's needed for the event then. We are aware of the tight turn around we will need if the event does go ahead, and the committee is committed to making that happen.

If you have any questions at all or need any further information please email secretary@laurafolkfair.com.au or call Anna on 0458 532 732

We will continue to fundraise until we hold another event either next year or the year after and our next 2 fundraisers will be a Trading Table at the CFS shed on the 16th October from 9am. If you would like to contribute something to the stall please bring items along on the day, otherwise come and see what is on offer. All support will be much appreciated.

We have also got in a supply of funky socks for you to buy and we will be putting photos up on Facebook plus have them at the Trading Table.

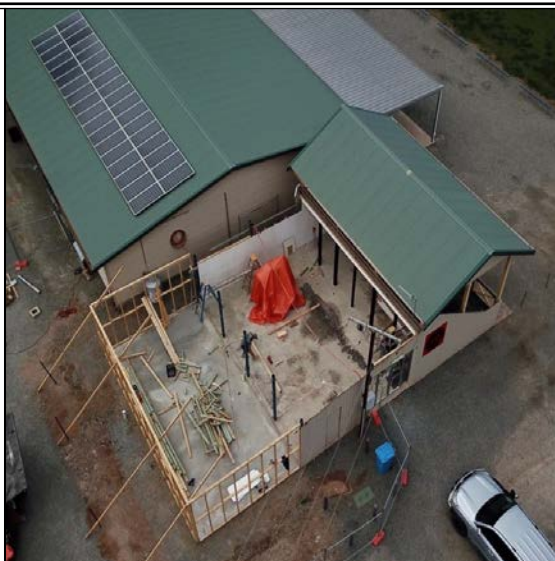
Think Christmas as it is zooming up very fast.

LAURA COMMUNITY GYM EXTENSION

We are excited to have the gym extension underway and the area will nearly double in size. We are asking you for your help to raise money to match the grant.

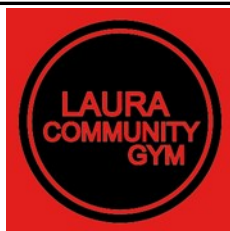
If you could PLEASE PLEASE help sell a book of 10 tickets to your family and friends in our \$1000 Cash Raffle we would really appreciate it The tickets are \$2 and the raffle will be drawn at our official opening.

Call the Post Office 86632331 or Deb Palmer 0408082614



LAURA COMMUNITY GYM

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



GYM EXTENSION FUNDRAISER

\$1,000.00 Cash Raffle (\$2 ticket) and Cookies for a Cause (\$5 a bag)
Available at Laura IGA, Koffi and Kandi and the Laura Post Office
Contact Deb Palmer on 0408082614 for Online and Direct Debit Sales.

Please Stay Safe Everybody

PROBUS NEWS



Our August meeting was held in the North Laura Hotel.

There were 29 members present and 13 apologies.

Guest Speakers were Ian and Lynette Pole from the Port Pirie

Mission to Seafarers. From 1856 to 2000 the organization was known as the Mission to Seamen. All staff are volunteers due to the lack of finances.

Facilities and Services include – Chapel for use of all. US currency exchange. Place of sanctuary and recreation. In 1936 the Chalice and Paten were presented to the Mission Chapel in memory of Dr. Thomas Kinley (T. K.)

Hamilton who was an Irish doctor who practiced as an ENT surgeon initially at Laura.

Beanies (minus the pompoms) are knitted by volunteers and distributed to the seafarers.

As a result of Covid 19 some seamen have been on their ship for over 16 months. Seafarers in S.A. are only permitted ashore for urgent Medical appointments. The Manilla Families Support Network is now partnered with the Independent Church of the Philippines.

September's meeting was held at the Gladstone Town Hall. 25 members attended and there were 15 apologies.

The Guest Speaker at this meeting was Glenda Woodward from the Country and Outback Health. Glenda gave a talk on Common breathing problems for older people. She visits Gladstone, Crystal Brook and Pt. Broughton. It is a free service and is usually arranged through a GP referral. Asthma is a common lung problem, about 1 in 10 Australians have asthma.

COPD- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease e.g. Emphysema. 1 in 7 people over 40 have COPD. Everyone over 65 should have a pneumonia vaccination.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday October 13th at the Wirrabara Sporting Reserve commencing at 10am for morning tea.

Laura Information Centre



Life is about back to normal at the Laura Information Centre, with dedicated volunteers making sure the doors are open most days and shelves are full of wonderful local products.

It is also time for our annual raffle. There will be a range of prizes and they are always full of surprises!

Tickets are on sale at the Information Centre so make sure you call in and buy a few – and while you're there, begin your Christmas shopping and take a close look at the great items on the shelves.

LAURA WAR MEMORIAL COMMEMORATIVE WALL PROJECT- COMMUNITY DONATIONS as at 25th September 2020

Anonymous x 28; Amey Jean; Adam Janet; Belcher Frank & Tricia; Bentley Toni; Bishop Colin; Blake Gay; Brand Helen & Geoff; Cleggett Beryl; Cleggett Gavin; Clogg Wendy & Family; Combe Ruth; Cummins Lyn & Ray; Dever Sam; Dierickx Mariette; Dohle Lyn (KI); Flower Storm; Heffernan Milt & Maureen; Higgins Peter & Janine; Hoare David; Klemm Kim Leanne Hamish & Hannah; Klemm Nita; Kruger Marie & Family; Lange Geoff & Joy; Laura Bowling Club; Laura Caravan Park; Laura Memorial Civic Centre Laura Racing Club Committee; Matthew Kaye; McDonald Joan; Meaney Trev; McKenzie Ruth; McKerlie Trev & Heather; Moore Brian; Northcott Maxine; Owens (Reid) Margaret; Pech Graham & Lee; Rausell David (KI); Scott Doug & Aileen; Slattery Greg; Slattery Paul; Smith Fraser & Merrilyn; Memory of George W Smith; Thomas Pauline; Thomas Peter & Marg; Thomson Alan & Julie; Thomson Brett; Thomson Clive & Val; Thomson Peter, Karen, Amelia & Eloise; Memory of RJ (Jim) Thomson; Wallis Jack; Wills Taryn, Simon, Brodie & Beau; Memory of Dan Whalan (WWII); Memory of Ferg Whalan (WWII); Memory of Calvin Whalan (WWII); Memory of Trevor Whalan (WWII); Wode Joyce.

Total raised as at 25/09/2020 \$10,110.25

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Dan

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Laura Sports Corner

Football Results

B Grade Final Scores	Southern Flinders lost to Broughton Mundoora	3 - 6 (24) 3 - 10 (28)
Junior Colts Final Scores	Southern Flinders lost to Broughton Mundooors	5 - 7 (37) 8 - 8 (56)

Southern Flinders Junior and Senior Footballers has their windup at Gladstone on Sunday.

Trophy Winners were:

A Grade

Damien Harris Memorial Trophy - Best & Fairest Runner Up	Koby Millington Mitchell Smith
Darren Millington Memorial Trophy - Best Team Man	Darryl Boylan
Matt Keeley Memorial Trophy - Coaches Trophy Most Improved	Craig Zanker Henry Durrant

B Grade

Best & Fairest	Andrew Henderson
Runner Up	Matt Keen
Best Team Man	Riley Hayes
Coaches Trophy	Tyler Foster
Most Improved	Dylan Johnson

Senior Colts

Best & Fairest	Callum Brennan
Runner Up	Ben Flowers

Junior Colts

Best & Fairest	Jayden Walker
Runner Up	Jaxon Brand

Club Service Award	Rhys Millington
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Cricket

For those interested in playing cricket this year please contact Rick Willis on 0408 448 515.

Training started on Thursday 1st October and future training will be every Thursday at 5.45pm at the oval

The season kicks off with the first game on Saturday 17th October 2020.

Tennis

Please contact Lucas Woolford on 0428 304 470 if your interested in playing tennis this year, The season starts on Saturday 17th October 2020, All players are welcome

Continued page 10

Laura Sports Corner

Bowls

Bowls season is commencing for the ladies on Thursday 8th October with Laura Red v Pt Pirie Red and Laura Black v BHAS Blue, both games are away. Saturday Pennants will start on 10th October with Boucher v Melrose and O'Shaughnessy v BHAS Blue, both sides playing at home.

Given the circumstances around the conclusion to last year's bowls season the Laura Bowling club will be holding their Presentation and Wind Up for 2019/20 following the first game on Saturday 10th October 2020 at the Clubrooms commencing at 6.30 pm with teas. All players, members and supporters are most welcome to join in this celebration.

Reminder that COVID 19 protocols will still be followed as required.

Anyone looking for a game of bowls are more than welcome to join our very successful club.

Membership for the 2020/21 season are – Full Member \$120, Junior Member \$30, First Year Player \$60 and Social Member \$50.

Laura Community Caravan Park news:



Well what a time we are having here at the park. We are getting a steady stream of visitors who are exploring our beautiful town and surrounding areas, lots of positive feedback on WIKI camps about our town, shops and the people in it.

The forest walk is coming along in leaps and bounds, with thanks to Kate for making our sign and painting stumps and seating, Allan Thomson for making some seating for out the back. Geoff, Joy Lange and Barry Harvie for planting more plants and preparing to mulch the trees that are flourishing.

Ray Cummings for his endless help in the park and in the forest walk.

Marty Gilbert for helping with bob cat work and fork lifting.

Paul Cotter is donating his time to lay new paving around the ablution block - it is looking a real treat.

Wayne Palmer for his time doing work around the park on Diggers, trucks and rollers.

Ruben who comes in and helps with bin runners and supplying wood for the fires.

Dean Nettle for spraying these pesky weeds that would otherwise take over Andy Broadbent and Nettle Electrical for hard wiring the TVs to the cabins

Peter and I are so thankful for everyone's help on and off the committee for making this a wonderful enjoyable relaxing caravan park.

Please if you haven't already, come to visit us take a look around.



Please Note
Change of Date



Government of South Australia
Southern Flinders Health Advisory
Council

**The Southern Flinders Health Advisory Council will hold its
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Thursday, 26 November 2020 at 7:00 pm
in the Laura Football Clubrooms, East Terrace, Laura SA

All members of the public are welcome to attend

As provided by the Southern Flinders Health Advisory Council Rules, five (5) Community Member Representative positions fall vacant at the Annual General Meeting.

Following conclusion of the Annual General Meeting a process will occur to determine the representative appointment and this will be up to a maximum of three (3) years.

Each nomination shall be in writing and be signed by two (2) community consumers in addition to the candidate.

Nomination forms are available from Sharon Jeffries, Administrative Assistant, Crystal Brook District Hospital, which can be requested by email sharon.jeffries@sa.gov.au or collected from the Administration department of either Crystal Brook District Hospital, Gladstone Health Centre or Laura and Districts Hospital.

Nomination forms, along with a current Curriculum Vitae, are to be forwarded in an envelope marked 'confidential' and addressed to:

Ms Tess Noonan
Executive Officer/Director of Nursing and Midwifery
Crystal Brook District Hospital
Edmund Terrace
CRYSTAL BROOK SA 5523

by the close of business on Monday, 16 November 2020

Northern Areas Council will be conducting a drumMuster collection during October 2020.

DrumMuster is a national program set up for the collection and recycling of clean, empty and non-returnable chemical containers. One of the greatest problems for crop and animal production farmers is disposing of such containers. It will soon be time for local farmers to take advantage of the program once again.

Only containers carrying the drumMUSTER logo will be accepted. A complete list of participating companies is available at www.drummuster.org.au/whos-involved

All containers must be correctly cleaned both inside and out (including threads) and allowed to drain to ensure they don't contain rinse water (refer to Avcare Standard for Effective Rinsing brochure available from your local chemical reseller) or go to www.drummuster.com.au Unclean or partly filled containers cannot be accepted.

Hours are 8am -3.30pm, closed for lunch 12.30pm – 1.00pm

No bookings required.

All enquiries to Shane Heness 0484 640 818

Dates and locations for drumMuster are as follows:

<i>Jamestown Transfer Station:</i>	<i>Surnames</i>	<i>A – L Monday 12th October 2020</i> <i>M – Z Tuesday 13th October 2020</i>
<i>Gladstone Transfer Station:</i>	<i>Surnames</i>	<i>A – L Wednesday 14th October 2020</i> <i>M – Z Thursday 15th October 2020</i>
<i>Spalding Transfer Station:</i>	<i>Surnames</i>	<i>A – Z Friday 16th October 2020</i>

C Byles
Chief Executive Officer



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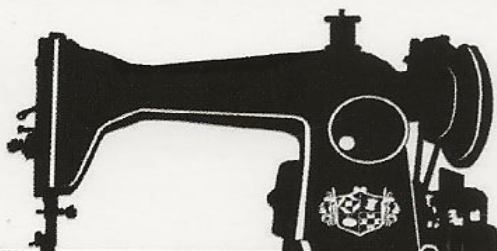
www.stonehutcottages.com.au



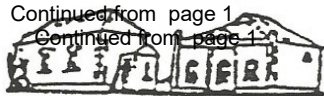
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**Rocky River
Historic & Art
Society**

Rocky River Historic & Art Society

Northern Areas Council Community Grants

Our society (and our community) are grateful to NAC in approving a grant application to replace the four interpretive heritage signs in Hughes Street. These once attractive signs have deteriorated in the weather and will be replaced prior to The Laura Fair; thus saving the new signs from another hot summer. The Northern Areas History Group (the consortium of ten towns within NAC) also received favourable consideration in the grants round to reprint the brochure outlining historical resources for researchers. These Community Grants provide many small community organizations with funding for many projects for the benefit of our community.
THANK YOU to Northern Areas Council.

Finding Former Farms

Plans are well in hand to commence the Finding Former Farms project which has been facilitated by a grant from the History Trust of SA. This will entail photographing former farm houses (or their sites), plotting GPS points and generally establishing a resource for future researchers. Owners of properties will be contacted for permission to enter properties, and for some background information. It is planned to embrace properties within the former District Council of Laura, and farms outside that area which identified Laura as their town. Family historians have specific targets when seeking information about their forebears – these include cemetery records, school records and places of residence. Hence this project will be of great value, especially as our area was once more closely settled with smaller rural holdings of which there is often no evidence of a homestead.

Donations to Laura Archives

The archives regularly receives donations which add to our resources. A collection of regional historical publications has recently been gratefully accepted.

A photo of interest was recently received from a grandson of Roy and Sophie Burt who were licensees of the Commercial Hotel from 1928-29. This was also known as the Bell and Beetaloo Reservoir Hotel, and was operated by James Dennis (father of CJ Dennis) from 1892-1909. It closed in 1934.



Sophie and Roy Burt with daughters Ivy and Aileen and niece Zelma Burt in 1928.

The COVID19 Period

Like many organizations this has been a quieter time. However there has been some action; new carpet was laid in the Laura Archives, an extra bay for the compactus storage unit has been purchased, the Laura Art Collection is hanging in the Court House Gallery, and many research enquiries have been received and dealt with.

Keep an eye on the town noticeboard for the date of our AGM

Can You Help

The Laura Archives has many unidentified photographs in its collection. These have usually come to us amongst general donations. We welcome anyone to have a look at them during one of our open afternoons on the first Tuesday of each month (between 2-4pm) Two images are reproduced here – if you have any clues please phone 0417 877 145 or 8663 2411. Your help would be appreciated.



Picture Left:

The swimmers may be at Port Germein and may have a Stone Hut connection

Picture Below:

This farmhouse was extended at some stage – wonder if the box gutter ever gave trouble!





NORTHERN AREAS COUNCIL

Annual Green Waste Collection

This collection service is primarily aimed to assist the elderly and the incapacitated. Council's Annual Green Waste Collection will commence on Monday 19th October 2020 and will continue to Monday 26th October 2020.

Please note that the Green Waste Collection will work on a booking system only. All bookings must be made by COB Friday October 16th 2020.

Residents must ring Council offices to book a collection: Jamestown 86641139; Gladstone 8662 2018; Spalding 8845 2017

The Green waste that will be collected is tree, rose and bush type material only, no lawn clippings or weeds. Green waste to be collected must be placed on the edge of the roadway, the evening prior to your scheduled pickup. **No** repeat trips will be made and large piles **will not** be removed from private property.

Green waste must be placed so that it does not interfere with pedestrian or vehicular traffic and must not be placed over service pits or hinder access to fire hydrants. **No tyres, no cars, no chemical**. A limit of 3 cubic metres (i.e. 6x4 trailer load) per household will be allowed.

Council reminds residents of their obligation to prune trees overhanging the footpaths. This is a good opportunity to do so.

Township

Spalding
Yacka
Gulnare
Georgetown
Gladstone
Caltowie
Jamestown
Laura/Stone Hut

Collection Date

Monday October 19th
Tuesday October 20th
Tuesday October 21st
Tuesday October 21st
Wednesday October 22nd
Thursday October 23rd
Thursday October 23rd / Friday October 24th
Monday October 26th

C Byles
Chief Executive Officer

SHOP
LOCAL

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

Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day on 11 November is also known as **Armistice Day**. It marks the end of World War One, at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918.

Traditionally a two-minute silence is held at 11am on 11/11 to remember those who died in wars.

CJ Dennis is known as the creator of the Sentimental Bloke. He also contributed a regular column to the Melbourne *Herald* about items of current interest; similar to the writings of Max Fatchen in *The Advertiser*. Through the 1920s and until his death in 1938 CJ penned tributes for Anzac Day and Armistice Day.

This poem, **Two Minutes**, was first published in *The Herald*, on 11 November 1931. It describes the emotions of war and victory, but more poignantly drew attention to the plight of the thousands of Australian returned soldiers who as well as coping with the physical and emotional scars of wartime service were facing another battle - waging a grim, exhausting fight against the rigors of unemployment and adversity during the Great Depression of the early 1930s.

Two Minutes by CJ Dennis

The Armistice....A silence shrouds the city:
Men's heads are bowed and many an eye is wet,
As minds con o'er an olden tale of pity,
Of grief and terror no man may forget.
Then thro' the silence break old sounds - the cheering,
The marching feet, the clattering limber wheel;
And, thro' the tears, blurred pictures are appearing
Of leaf-brown soldiers and the glint of steel.

The Armistice....A sound comes now of weeping:
New pictures form, and merge, and fade away
In grim succession, thro' the dread years creeping
Unto the dawning of this Glorious Day.
"The Peace! The Victory!" Done is the grieving,
As thro' the land speeds that exultant roar.
Yet, thro' it all, a thread of pain goes weaving -
Pain for the men who marched to march no more.
The Armistice....Now bugles cease their wailing;
The Silence ends, and life flows on, once more....

And this our tribute; what is it availing
While living warriors still plead at our door?
Warriors yet, grown old, but ever keeping
The grim fight on, unarmed, unmailed, unled.
Is all our debt to quit ghosts, long sleeping?
Mourner, return. You would not mock the dead?

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**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 no later than 5pm on the following dates:

**** Nov 20th 2020 ** Jan 29th 2021 ** March 26th 2021 ****

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** 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

Laura Standard Editor: Laura Standard 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: Wayne "Stick" Gifford on **0419 816 976**.
John "Bugs" Cleggett on **0439 098 612**.

*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 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 **December**
edition of The Laura Standard is
5pm Friday Nov 20th 2020



Working in the vineyard.

With the weather returning to winter chills reminds me of working in the vineyards of the Coonawarra. You could be out in the rain, drizzle, hail, and bitterly cold wind. Where when you cut a cane under tension and it comes back and whacks you on the face, boy did it sting! Then the remainder of the time one worked along those long rows in the warmth of the sunshine.

Seems by nature we tend to readily remember the tough stuff of life and the warmer moments of life seem less prominent.

We are all given the opportunity of working in the vineyard of life.

Through thick and thin, through crisis or celebration, rain or shine our life is meant to produce something – fruit.

There is a verse that goes; “I am the vine you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5). The imagery is that Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. So, the very life of the branches and the ability to produce fruit comes from its life source – the vine. In the process pruning must first happen.

Later, Jesus goes on to say, “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last.” (John 15:16). As we are about to leave to go to Alice Springs, I reflect on the reality that I leave very little behind – only what I came with, the Word of God and a Christian faith. It is those things that will last way beyond any other endeavours or memories.

Ecclesiastes 3 has often been a meaningful text to me at a time like this, ‘There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven ...’ Wisdom is that we do or receive everything as a gift from God, doing the best of one’s ability, finding profit in work, not from work. Blessings in your work in the vineyard of life.

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PS: Thank you to all those who have supported Pam and I in our six years here in Laura and the region. It has been a blessing to be part of your communities for a short space of time.