



February 2022 Issue 43

Hello Readers,

Welcome to the first edition of the Laura Standard for 2022. Hopefully everyone had a great Christmas and New Year and are feeling refreshed for the year ahead. With the recent opening of the borders and a continued movement towards the “new normal” we have seen an increase of COVID cases in South Australia. Whilst so far in Laura we have managed to stay COVID free this is no time to become complacent as many of our surrounding towns have not been so fortunate.

We again enjoyed great weather for the Christmas “Party in the Park” which was held this time around on the Sunday before Christmas (the Friday being Christmas Eve). An excellent crowd again gathered to enjoy food, drink and good company with Arts and Craft for the Kids and Father Christmas being a big hit. Thanks very much to all the volunteers who help to make this event successful every year, the Tennis Club for cooking the BBQ, Shane Woolford for the lend of his PA, Golden North for the donation of Ice Creams and the Bowls Club ladies for making the fruit salad. Also, to everyone who came along and enjoyed the night and happily followed the COVID Safe rules.

With the cancellation of the Fair, for the third time, many local community groups are having to find new ways of fundraising. LCDTA members have been very busy of late with a “Gingerbread House” making workshop held and attended by around 60 people, 3 “Slice Drives” that sold 150 Hampers and 2 rounds of the “Meals to You”. At this stage there are plans to run 3 more Meals to You, another Slice Drive in the lead up to Easter and I’m thinking that with the success of the Gingerbread workshop that the community would certainly be keen for another workshop towards the end of this year.

Continued page 2

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

Continued from page 1

The “Laura Lights” project was expanded this year with the purchase and putting up of a lot more lights along the Median Strip trees. Thank you to everyone who came to help with putting up the lights, not only committee members but members of the community who had read about the working bee on the “Laura SA community notice board” Facebook page as well as the “Laura Standard”. Thanks also to Luke O’Dea from Blackmores Power and Water for the loan of his cherry picker and to Bradley Alm for driving it for us. It’s been really nice in the last few months to have people bail me up in the street and compliment not only these lights but also the War Memorial.

On behalf of the LCDTA I’d like to wish everyone a safe and prosperous year ahead.

Thanks
Gerald Higgins
Chairman LCDTA

Rocky River Health and Care Bus



We know that accessing transport to get to country health services can be difficult when you are isolated. Therefore, the Rocky River Bus Service is designed to help you get to the services that you may need.

The Laura Hospital and Community Health Services partner with the Rocky River Health and Care Bus Committee to provide a local community bus to people living in Rocky River and surrounding areas.

The bus transports community members to Port Pirie to attend appointments, access specialist services and visit retailers. The bus service is available on the first Thursday every month.

For more information regarding the service, please call Leah Palmer or Administration at the Laura Hospital on (08) 8663 3100.

Welcome To Meryle's



Malcolm and Jenny spent the past 20 years managing caravan parks before shifting to Laura and opening the newly established Meryle's Cafe on the 8th of December 2021. They have been joined by Yenda who worked at the Golden North ice cream factory for many years.

The Café has been beautifully fitted out with all new equipment thanks to Frank Bernhardt, - the owner of the premises and has been named after Frank's mother, Meryle. Malcom said more improvements are being added with more indoor and outdoor seating arriving soon.

Just some things from the extensive menu: bacon and eggs, raisin toast, brekky rolls or waffles and pancakes, hamburgers to hot dogs, filo pastry to freshly cut rolls and a display cabinet full and of sweet treats.

The scones with jam and cream are just amazing

The coffee is supplied by Mahalia, - an award-winning South Australian company, -based at Robe.

A wide range of cold drinks including iced coffee and thick shakes are available to choose from.

Golden North's full range of ice cream - with 26 flavours to choose from plus favourites like Giant Twins, Cups and Swings rounds out the selections.

The Café is open 7am to 3pm daily except for Mondays

Malcolm and Jenny are elated with the response from the local Laura people and look forward to welcoming you into their beautiful Café.

The Emporium is coming together and will be opening in the near future.



Photo Above: Yenda, Malcolm and Jenny inside Meryle's Café

Photo Right: The front of the new Café.





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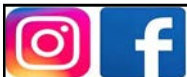
We look forward to supporting you on this journey!

Advertorial

Laura Brewery Update

SA artist Stewart MacFarlane has withdrawn from politics and is focussing on renovating the Laura Brewery building and its gardens, as well as continuing his painting endeavours.

His wife, Dr Robyn-Ann Potanin continues to support the Flinders Ranges arts community.



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Laura Baptist Christian Community: Property Update

Many of you have noticed that for several months there has been construction fencing around the Baptist church property at 38 Victoria Street. This was a precautionary safety measure because of concerns regarding the structural integrity of the roof. The church leadership are exploring options to enable us to continue to meet as a church and to serve the community of Laura.



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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 28th October 2021 at the Crystal Brook Football Clubrooms. Colleen Slattery from Laura retired from SFHAC at the AGM. We thank her for her service over the years. We welcome new members – Jenni Cleggett from Laura and Bev Harris from Gladstone. Continuing community members are:

Brian Higgins (Presiding Member), Lorraine Griffin and Robyn Johnson (Laura), Phillip Heaslip (Wirrabara), Shane Kirk and Jo Grossman (Crystal Brook). Bronny Perry continues as staff representative with Kathy Webb as the Local Government representative from the Northern Areas Council. Dr. Helen Robertson continues as the Medical representative.

Tim Zander's term as Local Member of Parliament representative has expired and a new Member of Parliament representative will be appointed after the upcoming State election. We thank Tim for his efforts during his term on the SFHAC.

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Lions Club News



The sample grain collecting at the Gladstone Silo complex is nearing completion for this season. We will know the financial value in coming months. All monies raised go towards community projects within the Rocky River region. We thank Vittera for their ongoing support and their employees for their assistance in helping with the distribution of our sample grain containers throughout the complex. We are indebted, also, to our volunteer Peter Smallacombe for distributing grain via our two grain trailers. Much appreciated.

Lions are most appreciative of the community development associations in Georgetown, Gladstone and Laura for offering to replace the batteries in the public defibrillators located in the town main streets. The batteries are expected to last around two years and the cost of replacement is in the vicinity of \$200. The conditions of the batteries are being monitored by Lions. The defibrillators were initially supplied and installed by members of Rocky River Lions.

The Laura 150 celebration committee would like to ask for Businesses, Sporting Groups, Public Servants and the General Public for interest to create and supply **STATIC DISPLAYS** of the history of business, recreation and or personal pursuits to be displayed in shop fronts on the lead up to our 150 year celebration on the long weekend the First and Second of October 2022.

Ideas may include History of Medical and Healthcare (Hospital and Chemists), Newsagents, Printing and Postage, Mechanical and Engineering Shops, Hairdressing, Sewing, Clothes, Saddlery and Boot Making, Council History, Water reticulation, Lighting and Power eg when it was introduced and installed, Personal milestones, Recreation eg Footy, Cricket, Softball, Baseball, Netball, Tennis etc

For further information please contact Kimberly on 0439132611 or kimberlybiles@yahoo.com.au

Kindest Regards
Anthony Lines
Chairman



BLD: 254571

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Laura Sport Corner



Laura Cricket Club Update

After 12 rounds Laura currently sits on top of the table with 14 points with 6 wins, two wash outs and undefeated

With 3 games left before finals Laura are in a great spot to finish top 2 and secure a finals berth.

Good performers so far with the bat have been Andrew Fleming with 107 runs from 2 innings with a top score of 73 not out, Jaran Turner with 101 runs and Flynn Bullen with 91 runs.

With the Ball Rick Willis has 10 wickets and Koby Millington and Dale Tenney with 7.

This years finals will consist of a knockout final on Saturday 26th February between 2nd and 3rd with the winner going through to play in the Grand Final vs the top team on Saturday 5th March



Laura Tennis Update

Tennis season is nearing the end with only 2 rounds left and an association game and then finals commencing.

Both C1 and C2 grades are undefeated, and a C3 team playing every 2nd week. It's great seeing the future of the club enjoying themselves and having success.

The Senior Side have managed about half and half with wins and losses but we are managing to fill a side every week which has been an improvement from other years.

We are always looking for new members to join, even if it's just for a social hit. Please contact Lucas on 0428 304 470 with any questions.

The Laura Fair

Once again The Laura Fair committee has had to make the disappointing decision to cancel The Fair for yet another year. We were really excited in December to say we were going to hold the event again but with the opening of borders and the influx of cases throughout the state we had to make the obvious decision. We will now work towards the event for the 1st and 2nd April 2023. We will continue to do fundraising throughout the year so keep an eye on our Facebook page for this.





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PRESIDENT - LEAH PALMER 0437605508

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When Laura had a Newspaper

The *Laura Standard* was established in 1888 as a limited liability company. Because of difficulties in obtaining machinery the first issue was not printed until 11 April 1889. It seems that corporate takeovers are nothing new as the business was sold in 1889 and then again in 1892 to WJC Cole who had undergone his apprenticeship to the printing trade with the *Kapunda Herald*. Mr Cole was a member of the state parliament in the House of Assembly and later sold the enterprise to a former employee Edward Farrell who in turn sold to RJ Rose in 1913. The business continued with Mr Rose as editor/proprietor until his death in 1942 when it was taken over by the *Northern Review* of Jamestown which later became part of the *Flinders News* consortium in Port Pirie. During the 1940s and 50s Tom and Doug Scott continued a printing business in the same premises which are now occupied by CocoLaura.

Throughout its life the *Laura Standard* was produced weekly, normally as a broadsheet, but in smaller format during the Second World War when paper was difficult to acquire. JA Hill was a regular contributor from the inception of the paper in 1889 until his death in 1904, when he was eulogized as “being a sturdy champion of local interests, fearlessly expressing his opinions”. His column often entered into altercation with the editor of the *Areas Express* of Gladstone – perhaps that may have been the beginnings of inter town rivalry.

Reuben Rose used his paper to advocate strongly for fire prevention and was first secretary of the Northern Fire Fighting Association. He used his printing presses to produce fire prevention posters, stickers and blotters, and once printed the *Laura Standard* in red ink to give leverage to his passion. The headstone on his grave in the Laura Cemetery was erected by the Northern Fire Fighting Association as attribute to his passionate advocacy.

The *Laura Standard* from 1889-1942 can be accessed on microfilm at the State Library of SA and the Laura Archives. This was funded by Rocky River Historic & Art Society as a major project in the early 1980s.

Continued page 15

Continued from page 14

A few years ago these films were used to digitize the newspaper which is easily accessed on Trove through the National Library of Australia. To learn more about happenings in early Laura, just google, ***Trove, National Library, Laura Standard***, and you'll be enthralled for hours!

Greg Slattery
Rocky River Historic & Art Society



When Laura had a Newspaper, is part of the series of When Laura had a

Gingerbread House Night

On Friday 3rd of December, the LCDTA held its inaugural Gingerbread House Night. The night was an unexpected sell out with all Gingerbread house kits sold. The night consisted of locals and visitors of all ages some travelling from Adelaide, Melrose, Jamestown, Crystal Brook, Port Pirie even Pt Augusta sitting down to a table with friends and new acquaintances to enjoy the festivities of Christmas. All participants built and decorated a gingerbread house which they then took home, complete with snow icing and beautifully wrapped to be devoured by family; or in my case to be gifted to friends!

Lots of planning and time went into the night and from all accounts it was well worth it with many people leaving on the night with the parting comment of "see you next year". I heard a few comments on how next year some planned to colour theme their house, another also bringing along printed images of decorating ideas, others even planning next years night out. There were a few beautiful items donated in which there were happy recipients of the raffles, including chocolates, body products, Gin, and Wine.

I would like to thank all those who helped in making this night a success, those who donated gifts and the wonderful people who helped set up and return the following day to clean the Civic Centre, not to mention those who were a sounding board in all the planning. Being new to this community it is wonderful to see how people come together and all pitch in, it makes me feel very privileged to be in a community that cares about its town. Oh, and we raised just under \$1200, pretty good effort for a first event, let's see what 2022 brings.

Michelle Goode



Party in the Park

The Party in the Park was enjoyed again this year by many from the Laura and wider community. It was nice to be able to gather safely in a time when events are still few and far between. Father Christmas arrived on the back of a ute, and over 60 children enjoyed greeting him, receiving an ice cream and lolly bag. Thank you to Golden North for the donation of the ice cream for the night. This year we had the addition of a 'kids activity tent' which included Christmas crafts and biscuit decorating. A great addition to the event and many commented how great it was. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped organise, cook the BBQ, make the fruit salad, serve food and set up/clean up. It appears we made a small loss on the night.

Community Raffle

It proved difficult to get volunteers to sell tickets in the street this year. That said the raffle made \$899. Thanks to those who were available to sell tickets and to those who purchased tickets. A big thank you to the Caravan Park Committee for the \$500 used as part of the prizes and to Sue Scarman and the LIC for their prizes.

Prize winners were

1 st Prize	\$350	- Lois Hunt
2 nd Prize	\$150	- Janita DeGiora
3 rd Prize	\$100	- Lorraine Gigney
4 th Prize	Voucher from Beetaloo Grove - Wendy	
5 th Prize	\$50 voucher from Laura Information Centre - Ashton Puddy	
6 th Prize	\$25 voucher from Laura Information Centre - Desi De Brenni	
7 th Prize	\$25 voucher from Laura Information Centre - Deb Palmer	
8 th Prize	Ginger Bread House	- Stuart Wilson

Community Calendar

Once again, the calendar has been well supported by local businesses. We have moved the artwork and printing to Copy King in Kadina and hope this arrangement continues in coming years. The quality of the calendar is excellent. When all accounts are paid, we should make just over \$900. Having decided to raise the fees slightly for next year and if using Copy King again the artwork should be cheaper - hopefully a better profit ahead.



Slice Drive

Thank you to everyone who supported this year's slice drive! We made over 150 hampers distributed from Adelaide to Cleve. We had over 20 people donate slices over the 3 drops, from all over the mid north! This project was created 100% from volunteers and donations. What an awesome group of women I'm excited to be a part of!

A HUGE thankyou to all the donors who cooked and made for us.

Secondly to all those who purchased and shared our project! We made over \$3000 profit which will go towards formalising plans for the nature playground project. Thank you to Woolworths for donating the containers for the drive.

Meals to You

Wow, a great way to feed families and raise money. A big thank you to our kitchen cooks (13 in round 1 and 15 in round 2) and to the 47 customers who purchased our 78 meals. \$1576 profit in the first 2 months with plans for the next couple of months started. Our next delivery day will be Monday 14th February. Look for the chalk board on the fence alongside IGA from about Thursday 3rd February and on the Laura Facebook page for information about the next offerings from our kitchen cooks.

To collect meals from Hannah's place (4 Campbell St, Laura) please follow these COVID safe directions - Arrive and collect from their shed between 4 and 6pm. Please wear a mask when approaching. (We will have a table and fridge set up in the shed). If you would prefer, we are offering to deliver ordered meal(s) to homes in Laura for the additional cost of \$5. We ask that you meet your deliverer at the door. If wanting your meals delivered please let Denise know when ordering.

Up coming Fundraising Events –

The Slice Drive will return on Wednesday 13th April, with goodies in time for Easter.

Meals to You will be offering meals in March and April. At this stage future delivery dates are Monday March 21st and Wednesday April 13th. There will be a combined Meals to You and Slice drive in the week leading up to Easter.

At this stage it is hoped that we will be able to hold a regular Aus Condon Memorial Golf Day in the July School Holidays.

The Laura 150 Committee have asked and the LCDTA have agreed to run a Devonshire Tea Stall for the 150 Celebrations.

Laura Community Caravan Park News:



In mid-December the park saw a changeover of managers with Alison & Chris replaced by us, Naomi & Simon. We have been busy keeping this treasure of a park looking fantastic for the guest's who even though it has been very warm at times keep choosing Laura for a stopover or longer stay. Meeting the friendly people of Laura and talking with the people from all over Australia who stay with us has been a highlight of our brief time at the park.

We hosted guests at the camp kitchen on Christmas Eve and shared stories of our unique Christmas experiences in caravan parks and we hope to have an Australia Day sausage sizzle for guests on the 26th.

A recent visitor to the park was this massive 75 foot long, 5th wheeler trailer which parked under the shady trees along Appila Rd as the owners enjoyed a couple of night's rest with us. (picture below)

We are attempting to lift the Facebook profile of the park by posting regularly so that people know a bit more about us and the beautiful town of Laura. Please take the time to have a look at our page, Laura Community Caravan Park SA, and give us a "like" and a "share" with your friends.

Have you had a look at the plant growth lately in our Forest Walk area? The planting done by the community at the working bees is all taking off as well as the new lawn area adjacent to it. We hope to attract lots of visitors to this area during the cooler months to enjoy the walk and the firepit areas.

Naomi & Simon Purdue



Did you know???

Carlene's Teddies

Carlene Heading knits and donates 3 different sized teddies to the Royal Flying Doctor Service and has done so for the last 6 years. In that time, she has made more than 500 teddies, with so many different personas. Everything from football players to little girl teddies in dresses. She and husband Allen drive to Port Augusta regularly to deliver the teddies which staff distribute.



There was a special delivery of 12 teddies to the Cobar Flying Doctor on one of their trips to Queensland. Allen had needed the services of the flying doctor on a previous trip, and they hadn't had a teddy for him, so he wanted to make sure someone else got a teddy!

Carlene generally has plenty of wool donated and purchases polyester toy filling from Scratch@Itch in Gladstone. If you have unused polyester toy filling at your place that is not going to be used Carlene will happily take it from you.

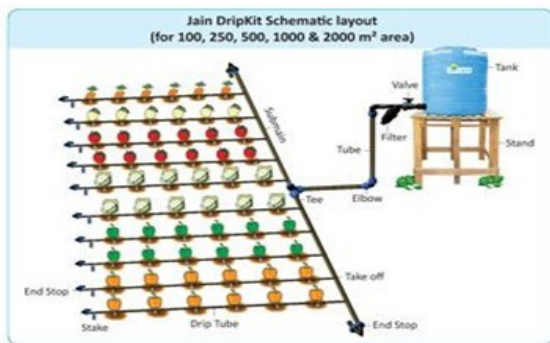
Photo right:

Flying Doctor
representatives
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teddies from
Carlene





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- **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
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- **Councillor Denise Higgins** 0428 222 610 or
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Finding a Justice of the Peace:

Barry Harvie 8663 2187 or 0409 698 009
Geoff Lange 0427 632 334
Jon Hawkins-Clarke 8663 2172
John Stevens 8663 2303

Laura Community Development & Tourism Association Inc.
PO Box 149 Laura SA 5480 www.laurasa.com.au

Chairman: 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.

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Latest time to submit articles

for inclusion in the
edition of The Laura Standard is
5pm Friday March 18th 2022

Who *IS* the Man



After all the waiting and preparations for Christmas, suddenly we're into a new year. Many of us have entered 2022 with questions. Perhaps even some anxiety. Will this year be as challenging as the past few have been, or are there glimmers of hope on the horizon? In the midst of so much uncertainty, is there an anchor that can keep us steady in whatever storms we might face this year?

I'm reminded of a story I told a group of Laura Primary children a few years ago. Jesus and his friends are in a fishing boat on the Sea of Galilee. It's been a long day and Jesus is tired. So he grabs a pillow, finds a quiet corner and immediately falls asleep. Meanwhile an unexpected and violent storm blows up. Jesus' friends are experienced fishermen who are used to unpredictable weather, but this is no ordinary storm. And they're terrified. They rush to Jesus and shake him awake. Jesus opens his eyes, stretches and stands up. With quiet authority he speaks to the storm and the waves: "Peace! Be still!" Suddenly, all is quiet. The wind, the waves, are calm. The children entered the story with great enthusiasm. They yawned loudly as Jesus grabbed his pillow and lay down. They out-snored each other as Jesus fell into a deep sleep. And at the top of their lungs they cried out to the wind and the waves: "STORM, STOP!!"

After the story was over, we talked about the way that Jesus cared for his friends in the midst of that storm. As he does for all of us. As we enter 2022 he's with us in our own stormy times - financial, relationship, health, grief.

After the crisis is over Jesus' friends ask each other a question. "Who *IS* this man?" they wonder, "Even the wind and the waves obey him!" Ultimately, they conclude he's the Son of God. The Saviour of the world. It's a question we're all asked. *Who IS this man?* What will we conclude?

Rev Jenny Pryor
0407999871

Laura Baptist Christian Community