



April 2022 Issue 44

Hello Readers,

Welcome to the April 2022 edition of the Laura Standard. With the recent easing of most COVID restrictions in South Australia I'm sure people are both anxious and excited to see how things go in the next few months as we return to "normal" life. We've enjoyed another mild summer in our district and have been fortunate not to suffer the severe storms that have been happening both in South Australia and interstate.

If you've driven through Laura at night in the last month or so you may have noticed that a light has been installed on the stobie pole near the War Memorial. This lights up the area brilliantly and allows the flag to fly 24 hours a day. This is the final chapter in the "War Memorial Project" after many years of hard work by LCDTA members and the great generosity of the local community. If you haven't driven past at night recently it is well worth a look.

The trees around the drainage dam at the rear of the North Parklands, that were planted by LCDTA members, community members and Laura Primary School students, are going ahead in leaps and bounds with 80% of the tree guards already having been removed. It certainly is shaping up to be another beautiful part of our town for future generations to enjoy.

The LCDTA's "Meals to You" has proven to be very popular, having been run for 4 out of the last 5 months. The next delivery will be just in time for Easter on Wednesday the 13th of April. It's been very well supported by both the people cooking the meals and those enjoying them. A big thankyou to everyone who has given up their time to prepare the meals.

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

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The "Laura 150 committee" have been hard at work preparing for the celebration in October. Most entertainment has been booked and ideas have been discussed for the Parade that will open the celebration. The "Plow" in the Civic Centre lawn has been sandblasted and the Plow and Plinth have been painted. This was organised by Anthony Lines, Alan Thomson and Ian White and paid for by the 150 committee. The work was carried out by Ed Forbes of Peterborough who is also going to sandblast and paint a "Stump Puller" to be revealed on the weekend of the celebration. There is a great article in the edition of the Laura Standard by 150 Chairman Anthony Lines outlining some of the things planned.

For more information about the weekend or how you can donate towards the celebration there is a Facebook page, and we look forward to catching up with locals both past and present at the event.

On behalf of the LCDTA I'd like to wish everyone an enjoyable next few months and good luck to the Southern Flinders Football and Netball club on the upcoming season.

Thanks

Gerald Higgins

LCDTA Chairman

Laura Baptist Christian Community Update April 2022



The Laura Baptist Christian Community has a long history in this community. The existing building was built in the mid 1870's and has been a place where many in the community have worshiped and shared in significant events.

The members of LBCC have a fresh vision for the church going forward and now agree that it's time for change. With the full endorsement of Baptist Churches of SA we have decided to sell the property. We'll continue to be the church but in a different way and are at present exploring options that will enable us to continue to meet together and to serve the community of Laura.

I look forward to my ongoing role as pastor of this church.

Rev Jenny Pryor (0407 999 871)

Do you have an hour or two to spare?

Volunteers Welcome

There are a range of organisations in Laura, many looking for some “New Blood”.

If you are looking to join a group or work on individual projects you might like to consider:

Meals on Wheels is looking for volunteers to deliver meals in the Laura community. Currently most volunteers are rostered to deliver meals every five weeks. The usual number of deliveries takes less than an hour and a half to complete the round.

The Volunteers Coordinator is Jan Barberien on ph. 0488 777 607

Laura Primary School has begun a garden program with the students. If this project interests you contact the Principal, Leanne Oppermann on ph 8663 2543

Laura Community Development and Tourism Association (LCDTA). The committee meets monthly on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. The focus of the committee is community development and amenities. This group has been responsible for everything from the War Memorial Commemorative Wall and planter boxes, to tree planting and community maintenance. Your Laura Standard is coordinated and produced by the LCDTA. The group has an active fundraising program. Chairperson - Gerald Higgins ph. 0431 754 429

Laura Caravan Park Committee is a sub-committee of the LCDTA and meets monthly on the second Tuesday of the month. Its focus is improving and maintaining the Caravan Park. Chairperson - Barry Harvie ph. 0409 698 009. Caravan Park ph. 8663 2296

Laura Information Centre, also a subcommittee of the LCDTA, known as LIC by many, provides important information sharing and product selling services to the community and visitors. The volunteer's roster often has unfilled spaces. Feel free to drop in at any time the centre is open to volunteer your time. Contact persons include Rhonda Pech ph 0498 998 444 and Fran Birrell ph. 8636 2333. The LIC phone number is 8663 2260

Laura Civic Centre Committee is another important group in the town. Their role is to maintain and upgrade the Civic Centre and ensure it is ready for hire. Chairperson is Ian White. Ph. 8663 2581

A number of organisations have their AGM in the winter months, information about upcoming AGMs and a brief description of more organisations will be part of the next Laura Standard.



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Just A Laugh



Judy Rudd, an amateur genealogy researcher in south east Queensland, was doing some personal work on her own family tree. She discovered that ex-Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's great-great uncle, Remus Rudd, was hanged for horse stealing and train robbery in Melbourne in 1889.

Both Judy and Kevin Rudd share this common ancestor.

The only known photograph of Remus shows him standing on the gallows at the Melbourne Jail.

On the back of the picture Judy obtained during her research is this inscription:

'Remus Rudd horse thief, sent to Melbourne Jail 1885, escaped 1887, robbed the Melbourne-Geelong train six times.
Caught by Victoria Police Force, convicted and hanged in 1889.'

So Judy recently emailed ex-Prime Minister Rudd for information about their great-great uncle, Remus Rudd. Kevin Rudd's staff sent back the following for her genealogy research:

"Remus Rudd was famous in Victoria during the mid to late 1800s.

His business empire grew to include acquisition of valuable equestrian assets and intimate dealings with the Melbourne-Geelong Railroad...

Beginning in 1883, he devoted several years of his life to government service, finally taking leave to resume his dealings with the railroad. In 1887, he was a key player in a vital investigation run by the Victoria Police Force.

In 1889, Remus passed away during an important civic function held in his honour when the platform upon which he was standing collapsed."

NOW That's how it's done, Folks!

Laura 150 years celebrations

October 1st and 2nd 2022



As chairman of the Laura 150 years celebrations committee I am excited to announce a broad programme for the October long weekend this year. The committee has a good mix of Laura locals. Members are chairperson Anthony Lines, Minute Secretary Julie Thomson, Secretary Deidra Klemm Treasurer Kimberly Higgins, committee members Kelly Burton, Greg Slattery, Robbie Klemm and Gerald Higgins.

We have a group of members with different interests and perspective of Laura with some great ideas for our celebrations .

The committee spanning over 3 generations with Greg Slattery as a committee member of the in the Back to Laura 100 years celebrations in 1972 gives us excellent scope of what will make a great and memorable weekend.

To kick off the celebrations late morning on the Saturday will be a parade of the history and periods of Laura and district, including dress ups over the years, machinery, transport, with old and new cars, motorcycles, push bikes, pedal cars, you may even see a horse or buggy or maybe a two way car?

The parade will start over the West Laura bridge at the Laura- Beetaloo Road triangle then move along Hughes Street to finish the parade at the Laura Oval and Sporting Complex.

On arrival there will be a staging of the parade exhibits and food and drink stalls to enjoy.

The chairman will then introduce a First Nation Elder of the country to welcome us to the land and then welcome one of the descendants of the Laura Hughes family to open the festivities.

There will be static displays for viewing such as medicine and nursing history agriculture and farming machinery, power lighting and water reticulation, emergency services, Council history and much more

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Fun and entertainment for the whole family with activities such as egg and spoon race, three legged races, an inside playground for the little tikes.

Footy long kick competition

Whip cracking

Ice Cream eating competition

30 years ago there was always strong competition in annual cricket matches between the Creamies (Golden North employees) vs the Greasies (Laura mechanics) this will be re created and played during the afternoon ensuring some great highlights of the best bowlers and batsmen of the district (or not!!)

There will be plenty of seating and tables to catch up with friends and relatives old and new.

As the day rolls into evening we will move to the Laura Civic Centre for evening grazing platters and refreshments followed by a band for entertainment into the night.

Sunday morning there will be time for church services of your choice, followed by breakfast at the Laura Primary School mid morning, with a roll call of students and teachers over the many years.

We will then meet at the corner of White street and Herbert street to unveil one of the first agricultural machines made at Laura, in a stump puller that has been restored, made at the foundry at this site in the 19th century.

As the day rolls on we will then stroll along to the archives building on Hughes street to unveil a garden bed blade sign of our towns namesake Laura Hughes

This will provide a great ending of the celebrations for 150 years

We would like as much contribution from the Laura community as possible to make this weekend a memorable one.

Hope to talk to anyone about ideas on the static displays

and most of all we would love to see you at Laura for the long weekend in October

Laura 150 years celebrations Chairman

Anthony Lines

0427817463

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Photos wanted by the Laura Archives for our 150th Celebrations

The race course or race meetings
The camping ground, prior to the caravan park
Laura Standard shop
Roennfeldt's Saddlery shop.
Golden North trucks

Please contact Greg Slattery 0417 877 145



IN TIME FOR
EASTER!

Home cooked meals

MEALS TO YOU

Hosted by the Laura Community
Development
and Tourism Association

Home cooked meal to serve 4-6.
free garlic bread included, vegetarian options
available

Prices from \$25

collection/delivery 13th April

meals ready to heat

Collection from front of

4 Campbell Street (Hannah Pech's) 4-6pm
(negotiable)


payment via cash or transfer (preferred) on
collection.

for full list of meal options contact Denise

Higgins 0428222610

by 8th April.

please wear a mask when
collecting. \$5 delivery
available in Laura.





RRHAS

Rocky River
Historic & Art
Society

When Laura had a Race Course

Horse racing in the northern areas commenced with the formation of the Great Northern Racing Club which held two day race meetings just north of Gladstone from 1879 to 1883. Unfortunately with prize monies of £300 for the Steeple Chase, £250 for the Handicap and £150 for the Hurdles their aspirations were a bit too 'grand' and the club went into liquidation.

Subsequently a public meeting was held in the Laura Hotel (where all public meetings were held in that era) and the Laura Jockey Club was formed with the first race meeting scheduled for 20 June 1884. This meeting was held on the existing course near Gladstone. Subsequent meetings were held on land just south of Laura on land owned by Mr HB Hughes of Booyoolee. The land was initially purchased by three committee members and later transferred to the Laura Jockey Club in the early 1900s when the club was able to stand on its own feet financially.

In 1910 a grandstand capable of seating a thousand people was constructed, which was later extended. Railway timetables of the era show that special trains came from Terowie, Port Wakefield, Port Pirie and Booleroo Centre. Perhaps the railways discerned the growing use of the motor car as competition as in 1928 a platform was constructed for the convenience of offloading patrons and horses. In 1927 the Automobile Association had reported that 985 motors were parked at the race course.

Offering great facilities, which attracted big crowds, Laura was regarded as the Oakbank of the North until 1941 when the club went into recess during the Second World War. From 1942 until 1951 the Commonwealth Flax Authority leased the land for flax spreading which was conveniently situated across the road from the flax mill.

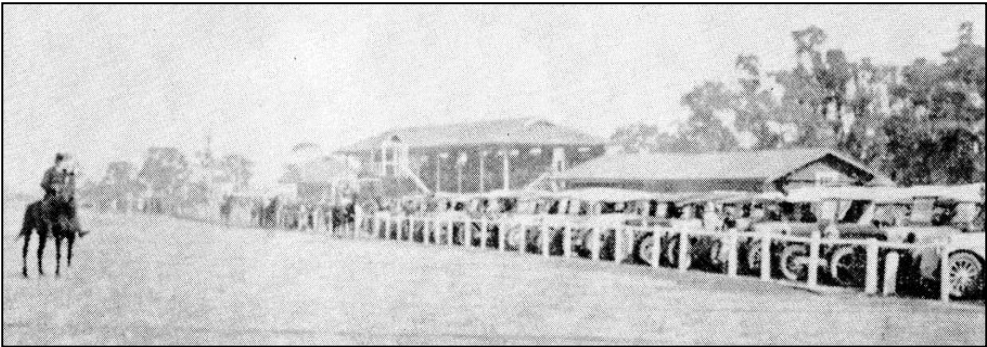
It was not until 1960 that race meetings were held again and the name of the club changed to Laura Trotting & Racing Club Inc, with a view to holding trotting meetings, but the trotting meetings did not eventuate. When the Laura Oval was developed in 1949 it also provided space for a trotting track.

After many successful years, the club went into recess in the 1990s. Interest on the invested capital has been distributed annually to local organizations. This continuing philanthropy has been much appreciated within the community and is a great legacy from this organization which has contributed significantly to the cultural history of Laura.

Greg Slattery

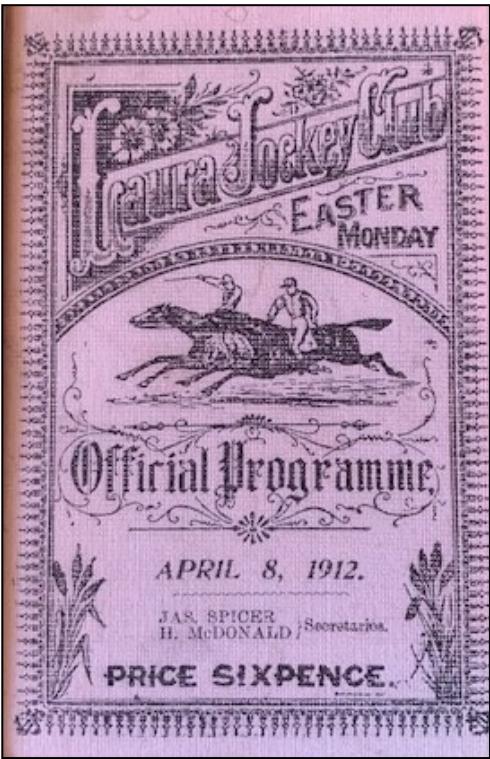
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Picture Above: Laura Jockey Club LTD. Course 1932.

Picture Below:
Official Programme from 1912



Picture Above

Laura Races 1905

When Laura had a Race Course, is part of the series of When Laura had a



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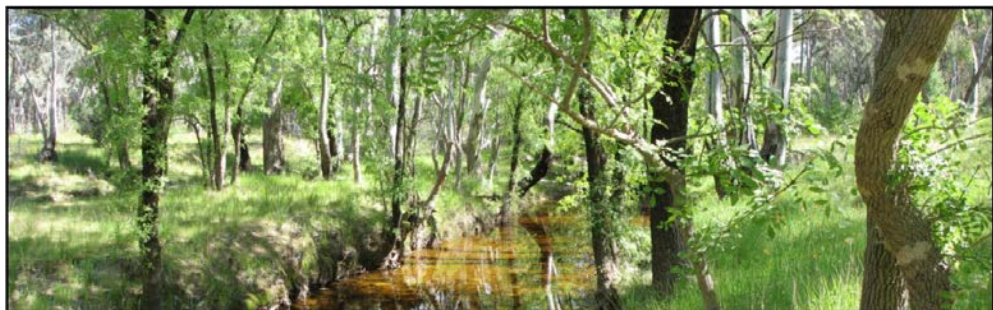


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Lions Club News



Rocky River Lions have been affected by the devastation and misery of the people of Queensland and New South Wales who have been affected by the floods during February. Lions have donated \$2,000 towards the national Lions Clubs Flood Appeal, which is earmarked to support those affected.

Due to a good harvest in the district this season, coupled with good prices for grain, Lions have received \$11,910 from the sale of sample grain through the Gladstone Silo Complex. This is the second highest annual collection since Lions started collecting and selling sample grain in 1997. We are most appreciative of the support given by our farmers, Viterra staff and Lions volunteers. All monies raised in this operation are spent within the Rocky River region on projects affecting the most people.

Lions have committed \$3,500 towards the cost of upgrading the bin surrounds in Herbert Street. This project is being actioned by the Laura Community Development and Tourism Association.

Our Lions Club is compiling a register of people in our area (Georgetown, Laura and Gladstone) or from anywhere in the district really, who are prepared to help any displaced people from Ukraine who may come to this area. They may need accommodation, clothing, transport, food, temporary employment (perhaps voluntary) and help with the language. We are promoting this project in association with the Association of Ukrainians in Adelaide who are doing a similar thing in the city and will be the co-ordinating body if people do come here. A police check may be necessary for those offering to help with accommodation. If you feel that you can help, please contact Greg, on 0148 786 676, and give us your details and the details of what you can offer.

Thank you.

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0457 846 033 LAURA SA



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Membership fees:

6 months \$150, 12 months \$200

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



Laura Community Caravan Park News:



January and February normally are quieter months at the park but with the milder weather we saw larger than normal numbers of guests enjoy the tranquillity Laura has to offer. We are again participating in the SA tourism “Great State Voucher” scheme which gives visitors a \$50 voucher to spend somewhere in the state, we have been inundated with bookings for the park.

On February 17th the committee invited those generous community members that help out around the park when we have working bees to come to the camp kitchen for dinner. A fantastic time was had by all with Laura Meat Store sausages and delicious home made desserts.



Did you know we now have a range of beanies, scarves and jewellery for sale in the park office? Everyone is welcome to pop in and have a look and maybe even purchase a “Laura Community Caravan Park” branded beanie for only \$30 ready for winter.

We are expanding 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.

Naomi & Simon Purdue





NORTHERN AREAS
COUNCIL



drumMUSTER

rinse them out, round them up and run them in.

drumMUSTER Collection dates 2022

Jamestown Transfer Station:

Surname A-L

Monday April 4th

Surname M-Z

Tuesday April 5th

Gladstone Transfer Station:

Surname A-L

Wednesday April 7th

Surname M-Z

Thursday April 8th

Spalding Transfer Station:

A-Z

Friday April 9th

8am - 3.30pm (closed 12-30 to 1pm)

Bookings are not necessary

**A collection will also be held
from 10th-14th October 2022**

***All enquiries to
Shane Heness 0484 640 818***

Did you know???

Outdoor Gym Equipment, - available for community use.

The Laura Primary School as a set of exercise equipment available for the community to use when school is closed. The equipment was donated and set up several years ago, with the purpose being to have it available for student use during the school day and the community out of school hours.

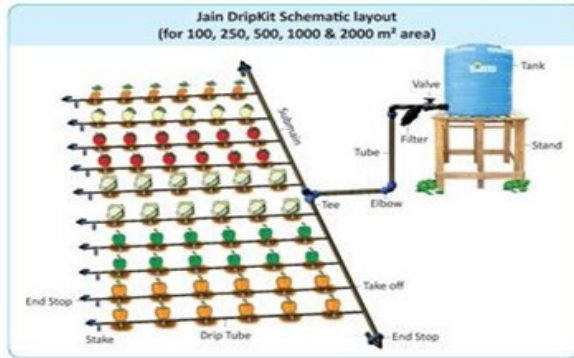
If you are interested you are welcome to use the equipment at your own risk.

As the photo's below show the equipment is under the trees on the edge of the school oval adjacent to Booyoolie Street.





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RSL LAURA SUB-BRANCH ANZAC SERVICE 25-4-2022



This year with the relaxing of the Covid Restrictions, a Full Public commemorative Ceremony in honour of our Defence Force Persons who lost their lives for our country will be held at the **Laura Cenotaph**. On completion of the Service the **Laura RSL clubrooms** will be open for comradeship, light breakfast and refreshments. All are welcome.

March off/ Laura CENOTAPH 6:50 a.m.
Completion of Service Clubrooms.

Trev Mckerlie
President 2022

jane jeffrey

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If you have a new dog or cat in the family please remember to add them into the DACO (Dogs and Cats online) registration at

www.dogsandcatsonline.com.au

New dog registrations are currently ½ price!

Please Note: if your animal has recently been microchipped please go to DACO online and access the microchip record and register the animal from there



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 2022 please continue to forward your articles in a word document, font set at Arial, size 11 with photos attached in jpeg format, along with a logo if required to lcdta5480@gmail.com by 5pm on the following dates:

**** May 20th 2022 ** July 22nd 2022 ** September 2nd 2022 ****

Contacts:

- **Council Office** Jamestown 8664 1139, 1300 664 108
(Please Note: The 1300 number is only available for landlines)
- **Council Office Gladstone** 8662 2018
- **Council's After Hours mobile number** 0488999808
- **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
edition of The Laura Standard is
5pm Friday May 20th 2022

Where is the good news?



There doesn't seem to be much good news around at the moment. There is the aftermath of floods in the Eastern states, with lives lost, homes inundated and thousands of lives impacted one way or another. And in the Ukraine, where millions of people are impacted, thousands of lives are being lost, and God only knows where the situation will lead.

If we look closer to home, it gets no better, because there are those here in Laura who are mourning the death of a loved one, or facing their own health issues and in some cases even their own mortality. Yes, the world seems a dark place at the moment.

But, 2,000 or so years ago things didn't look too bright for Jesus either, he was deserted by his friends, beaten, abused having done nothing wrong and then he was put to death on a cross.

But his death was different, he died so that you can live! He died, so that now God can walk with you and be with you as your best and closest friend – after all, how many other people do you know who have died for you?

Death was not the end for Jesus, on the third day he was raised to life again. The bad news was changed to good news! He then returned to heaven, and he is there now, preparing a place for all who believe in him to spend eternity. He is preparing a place for you!

That isn't all he's doing. You can still see him here on earth - he walks with the refugees in the Ukraine, because he himself was a refugee, he comforts those who have lost loved ones or home and possession in the floods, because he himself lost everything for our sake. He is there in our community, knowing what people are suffering, because he suffered. In all these situations you see him reflected in those providing aid.

Wherever there is pain and suffering there you will find Jesus, seeking to bring people hope, forgiveness and eternal peace. Because Jesus' love and assurance of salvation gives hope to the hopeless, eternal riches to those who have nothing, and an eternal home to those who are homeless.

In Jesus we always find good news, not just for today or tomorrow but for all eternity.

Stephen Noblett (Pastor) Southern Flinders Lutheran Parish.
0439 346 972