



February 2023 Issue 49

Hello Readers,

Welcome to the first edition of the Laura Standard for 2023. After what was a very busy 2022, I hope that everyone was able to enjoy a relaxing Christmas and New Year with family and friends and are feeling refreshed for the year ahead. With a bumper crop now mostly delivered to the silos and the return this year of The Laura Fair for the first time in four years. It's an exciting time to be part of our little community.

Fantastic weather again saw a great crowd enjoy one of the most successful Christmas "Party in the Park's" in years. Father Christmas was a hit as always as was the face painting and lolly bags for the kids. All meat, fruit salads and drinks were sold out as well as the slice packs, that will go towards the "Nature Playground" project. The winners of the town raffle were drawn, and we also announced the winners of Laura's first ever, and amazingly supported, "Christmas Lights Competition". It certainly was a great culmination of what had been a very busy final 6 weeks of Laura's 150th year. A Pop-up Op Shop, Gingerbread House making night, slice drive, community calendars and the installation of more lighting and Christmas banners in the median strip has definitely kept LCDTA members on their toes. Events like the "Party in the Park" would not be possible without volunteers and I'd like to personally thank everyone involved in organising, setting up, serving, packing up or helping in any other way.

Continued on page 2

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

Continued from page 1

The next few months will be very exciting, albeit busy for our little town. The Civic Centre will be out of action for a while as it gets a much-needed new roof. Once this is completed bookings to hire the facilities can be made at the Laura Information Centre or online at www.laurasa.com.au. This will be completed in time also for the return of The Laura Fair, which will be a fantastic boost for our community as well as a great chance to fundraise, not only for the LCDTA but for many of our community's groups and clubs.

Meals to You will also return in 2023, with the first being held on the 13th of February. Keep an eye out for posters and on Facebook for details.

Lastly, I'd like to congratulate the "Laura 150" committee, all the conveners and anyone else who volunteered to help make the weekend such a success. Laura's "150 year" celebration has been awarded "Event of the Year" in the Northern Area's Council Australia Day Awards.

On behalf of the LCDTA I'd like to wish everyone a happy, safe and prosperous 2023

Thanks
Gerald Higgins
Chairman LCDTA

**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 2023 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:

**** March 24th 2023 ** May 19th 2023 ****



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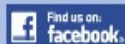
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WCDTA

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**COLLECTION/DELIVERY
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Laura.

Between 4-6pm.
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or eft on pick up.



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meal options
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The Golden North Laura Fair



The Laura Fair is only weeks away which means we will need lots of volunteers to make this event happen again after three years of missing out.

Friday set up and Sunday pack up should be a little easier this year as we are not having the hessian stalls. Each stallholder will be bringing their own gazebos. This doesn't mean we won't need volunteers to assist us though. We will still need to put up the mall stage and the large marquee which goes over that. Our bar area needs to be assembled. We will also need to assemble gazebos around the Fair ground for our purposes. We will also need to put the fencing up at each of the 3 entrances. Sponsors signage up along these fences. These are the bigger jobs and there will be countless other tasks needing to be done so any assistance for the set up will be appreciated. Please meet at the Laura Fair shed at 7am Friday the 31st March or at 4pm Sunday afternoon.

Pack up will be undoing everything we had done on Friday and a clean-up of the site.

Anyone who assists over the weekend is invited to our 'thank you BBQ tea' after pack-up.

We also need volunteers to work for assorted teams over the weekend. If you would like to help in any way or get your name onto a roster, please contact Sue 0418844935



Lions Club News



Rocky River Lions were again pleased to sponsor the Gladstone High School Citizenship Award at the Presentation Night on December 12th. Two Science and Technology Awards were also sponsored by Lions.

One of our major fundraisers is the collection and sale of sample grain at the Gladstone Viterra Silo Complex. Although we experienced a late start to harvest due to weather conditions, volumes of grain received have been large. We thank Pete Smallacombe and Silo staff for their support in handling the sample grain. Lions endeavour to spend all monies from the sample grain to the benefit of all living within the Rocky River region. The total of money raised from this season's collection will be advised in the next local publication. We particularly thank our grain growers for their generosity of spirit.

Laura 150th Medallions

collectors item in presentation case
an ideal Christmas gift for young and old

This is the first Laura medallion since the anniversary of Queen Victoria in 1887,
which depicted Queen Victoria and the Laura Town Hall,
so it will be a real collectors item.

Limited collectors edition of 150 medallions
- only a few left, so act soon !!!!!

\$ 30 each

at the Laura Information Centre

Gilbert Beekeeping

Marty & Lorraine have "*hung up the bee tools*" for Marty it is his 54th honey season.

It has been a pleasure working alongside "Team Gilbert" including Connor, Samuel and Riley.

These 3 young men have been a magnificent help, alongside other businesses and friends locally.

Over the next few months we will have equipment for sale by expressions of interest and negotiation.

For item listing and pricing phone Lorraine 0417824739.

(Truck, trailers, loaders, honey plant sundries etc.)

Stocks of honey and beeswax are still available going forward over the next few months.

Our bees have been a great benefit to our local crops, growers and us.

Thank You all for making this a great supportive farming community which we continue to call home.

Regards Marty & Lorraine Gilbert



jane jeffrey

INTERIORS

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LAURA COMMUNITY GYM

Providing an excellent opportunity for people of all ages to

Join the Gym now as a permanent member

Membership fees:

6 months \$150, 12 months \$200

Enquiries and application forms available from the Laura Post Office
or call **Nicole Floyd: 0438 681 614.**



The Laura 150th Celebration Committee



The 150th Committee hasn't gone to sleep ! Since the last issue of the *Laura Standard* the interpretive sign for the Forsaith Stump Puller has been installed. Because of the easy parking in the area it is great to see that there is often someone having a look, and hopefully learning a little about our past. As reported before, this is just the first of a series of interpretive signs depicting the industrial history of Laura

150th Medallions

There are still a few of these medallions available from the Laura Information Centre. At just \$30 each in a lovely presentation case they are suitable as an ideal gift for any occasion, for young or old. These are very special, not just because of marking the 150 years of our town, but they are the first Laura medallions to have been struck since 1887, yes 1887, marking the golden jubilee of the reign of Queen Victoria. So head to the Laura Information Centre and get a medallion or medallions before it's too late!

Farming families of the district

Approaches are still being made, and orders are still being taken for pavers which will be laid near the centenary plough on the Civic Centre lawn. Pavers are \$70 each and will carry the names of farmers of the district from 1872 until the present. This is an excellent way to perpetuate the farmers of the area through the years in a most appropriate setting. If you don't hear from us, please contact Anthony Lines, Greg Slattery or Gerald Higgins.

It is important that these pavers be as inclusive as possible of all farming families, past and present, for this lasting 150th project.



Photo Left:

The Laura 150th
Committee

Please enjoy the
photos from the 150th
over the next two
pages.
A big thank you to
Leah Palmer





Northern Areas Council Australia Day Awards 2023



Northern Areas Council Mayor Scarman advised that the recipients of the 2023 Northern Areas Council Australia Day Awards were acknowledged at an Australia Day Breakfast at Memorial Park, Jamestown on Thursday the 26th of January 2023.

The Citizen of the Year for 2023 awarded to Mr Leith Cooper of Jamestown.

Leith has been a highly valued contributor to not only the Jamestown community, but the wider region for several decades. Leith's contribution has extended from community and sporting organisations, local history and various historical celebrations, through to education and key leadership roles in the agricultural industry.

Mid North Suicide Prevention has been awarded the Active Citizenship Award for the highly successful Jamestown Golf Course Park Run.

The success of the Jamestown Park Run in encouraging better health and wellbeing, in addition to volunteering has seen it duly recognised for their outstanding efforts.

The Community Event of the Year is the Laura 150 year celebrations, which took place across the October long weekend.

Over eighteen hundred people celebrated the sesquicentenary of the town of Laura, with people travelling from as far as interstate for the celebrations. Festivities included a parade from the Civic Centre to the Oval, where stalls and community activities were held, followed by a cabaret style dinner and band in the evening.

The Sunday saw over two hundred people attend a "back to school roll call" at the Laura Primary School, as well as the unveiling of the vintage stump puller at the site of the former foundry where it was built over a century earlier and the unveiling of the Laura Hughes glass etching between the Courthouse and Archives buildings.

For their hard work coordinating the celebrations, the Laura 150 Committee have been recognised as Council's Community Event of the Year.

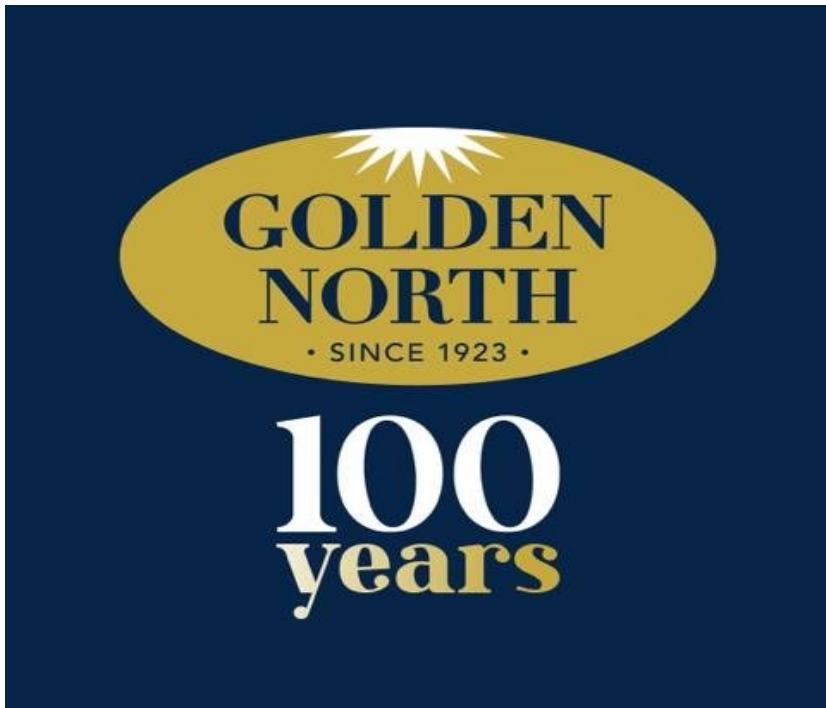


Candles - Melts - Gifts Hand Made in Laura

**Available to buy from:
Laura Information Centre &
The Laura Emporium**

Fragranced Soy Wax Candles Wax Melts packs
Hand Blown Glass Melt Warmer with Wax Melts.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY GOLDEN NORTH



Party in the Park

What a magnificent night this year's party in the park was! A huge thank you to all those who helped leading up, on the night and all the in betweens. It's events like this that bring out the true community spirit of a small town like Laura. I would say was our most successful park party yet!

On reflection

- We gave out 90 lolly bags and 15 baby toys. The most we have ever done. LOTS of babies this year which is promising for the future.
- Craft, stalls and face painting added to the event with a family feel. Thank you Michelle and crew it was a busy night and my kids little trees look so lovely!
- We sold out of all our meat and drinks which has never happened before! Lots of people attending and supporting.
- All 32 slice packs organised by our fundraising sub committee sold out on the night, another \$600 to the nature playground kitty.
- The lights competition and raffle added to the night.

Again, a huge Thank you to everyone who worked hard behind the scenes, leading up, donating time, set up, clean up, organising food, music, and all of the above.

Thank you to the tennis club for helping with the BBQ, bowls ladies for making the fruit salad, Golden North for the ice cream donation, Father Christmas for visiting, Chad Cowin for the cold room and Shane Woodford for the music set up. To the caravan park for donations towards the kids corner activities and finally to the LCDTA committee for holding the 100% volunteer run event. We are always seeking helpers so if you would like to get involved in the festive event, please contact Hannah Pech.



Photo Left:

Father Christmas at
The Party in the Park

FUNDRAISING REPORT.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

On a beautiful afternoon and evening many members of the Laura community gathered at the North Park Lands for the annual Party in the Park. Part of that evening was the drawing of the raffle. The raffle made \$1539.76 with prize money donated by the Laura Information Centre. There were a few tickets sold online and these sales were converted to physical tickets on the night in preparation for the draw.

By comparison the raffle in 2021 raised \$1149.10. \$250 of the profit was spent on raffle tickets, making the total raised \$899.10.

Raffle winners were -

First Prize - \$300; Niilo Pech (Rhonda and Robert's grandson from Finland)

Second Prize - \$150; Veronica Sawley

Third Prize - \$100; Brian Higgins

Fourth Prize - \$50; Jenny Mazzone

Fifth Prize - Gingerbread House pack; Bev Marron.

Congratulations to all winners.

COMMUNITY CALENDARS

Thank you to the businesses and community groups which have used our calendar to advertise their business or events. 550 calendars were purchased from CopyKing in Kadina. This is an increase from the 500 ordered and distributed in previous years. They have again done a wonderful job of the artwork and printing of the 2023 calendar. Many thanks to the team who deliver calendars to the township homes each year. As one of the deliverers I find it a nice way to catch up with people in the busy Christmas season. If your family or business has not yet received a calendar, please contact Denise on 0428 222 610. The anticipated profit for the calendar is \$1114.40

MEALS TO YOU

Our next Meals to You will be early February with orders closing on 7th February. Collection and payment is on Monday 13th February from 4-6pm from Pech's place in Campbell St. Many thanks to our "kitchen cooks" who provide the meals which are sold and enjoyed by many. Please find the flyer for this in this Standard.

DEVONSHIRE TEA STALL AT THE LAURA FAIR

Yes, it's only February but this is the last Standard before The Laura Fair. Our Devonshire Tea stall at the Laura 150 weekend proved yet again how much people enjoy a good cuppa and scone. Previous Laura Fairs have shown this to be a significant fundraiser and in a good year (beautiful weather helps!) we have sold 100 dozen scones with tea or coffee over the weekend. In late February / early March members of the LCDTA will be contacting families looking for volunteers willing to make scones and / or work in the stall. Your help is much appreciated. Early offers of support can be made to Denise on 0428 222 610 or bridenhi@bigpond.com.

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APPILA 2.30 - 3.30pm			

RETURN BOXES are located at the Gladstone Council Office, Laura IGA, Wirrabara Lucky 7 and Booleroo Centre IGA.

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Laura Community Caravan Park News:



It has now been just over 12 months that we have been here in Laura as the managers of the Community Caravan Park and have been fortunate to meet so many locals and visitors from all over Australia and the world. 2022 was a record year for the park with visitor numbers to the Southern Flinders region at an all-time high. We have been excited to see guests choose to stay with us over and over again and are looking forward to what 2023 brings for the park and the beautiful town of Laura.

We are planning for some more improvements to the park including dedicated disabled amenities facilities, an electric car charging station and perhaps even some more cabins to meet with the ever growing demand for accommodation.

The summer rains have kept our grounds looking beautiful through the hot months and we are thankful to our energetic band of volunteers for chipping in when needed around the park.

Later in 2023 we will welcome "Little Blessing Brewing" to Victoria Street which will sure to be another reason for people to visit Laura and stay in the caravan park.

Naomi & Simon Purdue



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

Try our gourmet pie range: Including Venison, Crocodile or Seafood.

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www.stonehutcottages.com.au



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The Laura Standard

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SOUTHERN FLINDERS NETBALL CLUB



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New and exciting year to come with changes in the format in a 9 competitive teams played with the Subbies and Minis.

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PLEASE CONSIDER IN HELPING OUR GRADES WITH COACHES. "IT'S GREAT TO MEET, BE INVOLVED AND REWARDING"

**Any queries contact
Leah Palmer 0437605508 or
Bern 0439864330**



Fire Danger Season



Reminder that the 2022/23 Fire Danger Season for the Mid North commenced 15th November 2022.

Burning off grass, stubble or vegetation in the open is prohibited during the Fire Danger Season.

Council's Fire Prevention Officer has inspected allotments in townships and issued Notices to ensure fire hazards are reduced during the upcoming Fire Danger season.

Further information is available from Northern Areas Council, Fire Prevention Officer:

Jamestown office - 8664 1139 or Gladstone office – 8662 2018, or the CFS Hotline on 1300 362 36

Laura Lights Winners

Congratulations to the following.

Overall Winners: Marcus Cleggett and Tash McRae
Runners Up: Jim and Bev Maron
Business award: The Laura Emporium.
Peoples Choice: Darryl and Jacqui Boylan

Thank you to everyone who entered the competition

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** Tim Zander, 8664 1139
- **Mayor Sue Scarman** 0418 844 935 or sue.scarman@nacouncil.sa.gov.au
- **Deputy Mayor Denise Higgins** 0428 222 610 or denise.higgins@nacouncil.sa.gov.au
- **Councillor John Barberien** 0418 804 416 or john.barberien@nacouncil.sa.gov.au



The Three Kings



In the Eastern Orthodox Church, Christmas is celebrated twelve days later, on the Feast of the Epiphany, the coming of Light to the world, and the part played by the three kings.

We're not sure whether these three were kings or wise men. I'd like to think that they were both, or at least they began as kings, but gathered much wisdom along the way.

So these eastern kings started out, saddlebags loaded with gold, to find this new king with the bright star as their guide, sure that they would find him in a splendid palace, and broker an alliance, beneficial to them.

The journey was long and arduous, with wild dogs, fractious camels and sand storms to cope with. After a while they began to realise that this new king was protecting them in some way, that he might be a mediator between a god and themselves. So they used some of their gold to buy incense from a passing caravan, a worthy gift for a priest, to present to him in his temple.

Later they visited King Herod in Jerusalem. He offered to help them, and asked them to return to him after they had found the child, so that he also could pay him homage. But, being kings themselves, they could read between the lines, and knew that he would never tolerate any possible opposition to his own power. In fact, he would set out to find and kill this new king.

So, with heavy hearts, they used some more of their gold to buy myrrh, the spice used to prepare the dead for burial.

They eventually found the child and his parents in, of all places, a stable they had to stoop to enter. They laid the gifts before him, then tickled his tummy and talked baby talk to him. Then they left for home, avoiding Jerusalem and Herod.

Later, around a camp fire, when they reflected on their long, difficult journey, they realised that it had given them time to understand that their own quest for power was not all that different from Herod's, and made it possible for them to recognise the immense power of love found in a helpless, defenceless child, which had broken down all their defences. They had sought a grand palace, then a temple, but found instead a doorway they had to bend low to enter.

And so it was that these three, who had left home as kings, returned as wise men. Blessings for the new year.

The Rev'd. Sr. Sandra Sears CSBC