



June 2023 Issue 51

Hello Readers,

Welcome to the June 2023 edition of the Laura Standard. After some nice early rain the district has a lovely green tinge but things are certainly drying out quickly. Hopefully we can see the return of the rains in the coming months and again enjoy a prosperous season in the area.

The return of The Laura Fair in early April for the first time since 2019 was a great success. Massive crowds on both days, the likes of which I don't think we've seen in decades, enjoyed perfect weather and a fantastic variety of stalls and entertainment. I'm sure that many local businesses and community groups would have done very well on the weekend.

The LCDTA again ran a Devonshire Tea stall and managed to raise more than \$2900, half of which will go towards the Nature Playground project. Despite the success of this year's Fair there a few retiring committee members, after many years of service. If you think that you might like to contribute to The Laura Fair committee their AGM is coming up in July.

Meals to You was again a success in early May, selling 31 items and raising \$1050 before expenses. Thanks again to all who donated meals and to those who purchased and enjoyed them. This along with the upcoming annual "Aus Condon Golf Day" in July are keeping the LCDTA members busy raising much needed funds to continue maintaining and improving our beautiful little town.

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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 Nature Playground group have had a busy couple of months running a very well supported Mother's Day raffle. Many local businesses and individuals were happy to donate goods to the raffle which then raised \$3780 from ticket sales. It's been great to see this project so well supported by the community over the last year or so and hopefully this support can be maintained over the next few years to help get this project off the ground.

The Laura Community Caravan Park is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. A lot of work has been done at the park and it is looking better than ever, having recently made the shortlist in the Advertiser's "SA's Best Caravan Park" competition, which is voted on by the public. To celebrate their 50th year the committee will be holding a BBQ and festivities on the 27th of August, to which all in the community are invited.

On a more sombre note, the Laura Soap Shoppe has recently shut its doors for the final time. Hans and Alice Simons and family have been a great asset to our little town over the last 29 years, serving on various committees as well as overseeing the town flag for many years. On behalf of the LCDTA I'd like to thank them for their contributions over the years and wish them all the best as they retire to Adelaide.

On behalf of the LCDTA I'd like to wish everyone a happy next few months. Hopefully everyone can stay warm and that the rain will eventually come.

Thanks
Gerald Higgins
Chairman LCDTA





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Laura Nature Playground

Mother's Day Raffle Report

The playground committee have just completed their second Mother's Day Raffle and all we can say is WOW.

Right from the start we had such a great response from businesses & individuals that were happy to be involved and donate vouchers, money, food goods and so much more, we then launched the ticket sales and were completely blown away by the amount of support that we received from not only our small community but the wider community.

We sold a total of 937 tickets which raised a huge total of \$3,780.00

We are so overwhelmed by what we have achieved with everyone's support.

Majority of sales were done via bank transfer and a small percentage by cash.

We found this year Facebook was our best form of advertising & really spread the word!

Please see below the names of the winners. We hope you enjoy your fantastic prizes.

1. Amanda Wake
2. Peter Prior
3. Bronwyn Weston
4. Tamara Wilson
5. Rhonda Janz

Thank you so much for everyone involved, from the donations to the tickets purchased we appreciate it all.

Laura Nature Playground Committee



LCDTA - Fundraising Report April – May 2023

DEVONSHIRE TEA STALL

As explained in the last Laura Standard, we had a hugely successful Laura Fair weekend and again, thanks to all volunteers for their time and expertise over the weekend. Total income after expenses was \$2931.75 with \$1465.87 going to the Nature Playground Group

MEALS TO YOU

May saw another very successful Meals to You this month with 31 items offered and sold. The total income was \$1045 plus a \$5 donation making a total of \$1050. Expenses will be calculated and reported in the next Standard.

Again a big thank you to our cooks, with a couple of new people joining the team. This fundraising effort relies on our “kitchen cooks”, who’s hard work enables its success.

We had the smallest number of customers this time, with many customers purchasing multiple items. Your support is important to our success. There will be two more Meals to You events this year. Sale dates will be Monday 11th September and Monday 6th November. Orders close the Tuesday of the previous week ie Tuesday 5th September and Tuesday 31st October respectively.

AUS CONDON MEMORIAL GOLF DAY

The Aus Condon Memorial Golf Day will be held on 20th July at the beautiful Laura Golf Course. We thank the Golf Club Committee for the use of the course. This is the second week of the July School Holidays and we again encourage students to be part of the day. Val Thomson continues in her role of organising players and cards. You will find the poster for the golf day in this edition of the Standard.

The Laura Soap & Gift Shoppe

Established 1996



Hi everyone

As you have probably noticed, we have closed our shop and are in the process of heading back to Adelaide after nearly 29 years in this lovely community.

Laura has been a big part of our lives. Now that seven of our eight children are living in Adelaide it is time for us to be closer to them.

It was with a heavy heart that we took the decision to close, but we are happy that John & Marcia Kitto are taking on the cleaning products.

We hope you will support them as you have supported us.

Many Blessing to you all.

Alice Hans & Family

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Lions Club News.....



Skin Cancer Screenings

Rocky River Lions are sponsoring the screenings to be held in the special unit, which will be stationed in the grounds of the Laura Civic Centre over two days, **July 11th and 12th**.

Please make your appointment bookings to Don on 0417 835 761. Bookings are essential. The screenings will take about 15 minutes by professionals. Screenings are for those 18 years and over. The screenings are free, funded through our Lions Club community projects.



**Candles – Melts – Diffusers- Gifts
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Finding a Justice of the Peace:

Geoff Lange 0427 632 334
Jon Hawkins-Clarke 8663 2172
John Stevens 8663 2303

Justice of the Peace opportunity

Due to the retirement of some of our local Justices of the Peace an opportunity exists for other interested people to take on this important role.

If you are interested and would like to talk with a current Justice of the Peace Mr. John Stevens (by appointment only) and Mr. Barry Harvie (8663 2187) are both available to talk with you and give a brief overview of what's involved in the role of Justice of the Peace.

For more information, please visit www.sa.gov.au and search for Justice of the peace.

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**Spalding
Transfer Station**

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8am - 3.30pm (closed 12-30 to 1pm) Bookings are not necessary All enquiries to Adam Kotaras 0418 886 288



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The Laura Fair 2023

We are back!



After a long break from holding our Fair, I would like to say it was great to present such a fantastic event.

If nothing else, it looked fantastic with the removal of the old hessian sites with the transition to the more colourful and open effect of gazebos. This also meant a lot less work in setting up on the Friday prior and pack up on Sunday night. It certainly didn't mean there was nothing to do for the volunteers who turned up for both set up and pack up. It did though mean that there was less response to volunteers offering their help thinking the work wouldn't be so plentiful but with the lower numbers of volunteers who did turn up the time to do both was not reduced. Hopefully with a bit more prodding next year the task will be shared among more people which will equate to less time for everyone involved.

The Fair itself, I think we can all agree it was great! Crowd estimates have been around the 20,000 over the 2 days. The parade, thanks to the mighty efforts of Ricky Pech and his team was something to be very proud of. Well done Ricky and everyone who took part in the parade.





Photos page 12 -

Left - Minister Clare Scriven MLC for Regional Development with Ray Cummings.

Right - Minister Scrivens with Brian Beyer

Photo's Above -

Left - Graham Zanker in the ice-cream eating competition suffering a bit brain freeze.

Right - Jeff Morgan's car from Hawker Art gallery

With 122 stallholders taking part the shopping opportunities were vast and varied and our stallholders were in general very impressed with the retail opportunities The Fair gives them. One stallholder has been heard to say they have never had the sales at any other market they go to. They attend a lot, so this is something to be proud of with the audience our small regional town can attract.

I trust all the local groups who had fundraisers over the weekend had successes as well.

With the proceeds of the entrance fees, we were able to donate \$2500 to the RFDS Port Pirie branch. With the rest of the entrance fee money, it now means the committee can look to expanding and improving The Fair. For years the committee has done fundraising throughout the year so we could pay the large insurance bill and have funds to run what is an ever-increasing budget with ongoing costs to hold an event of this size let alone improve and expand what we already have.

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On Monday 3rd July at 7.30 The Laura Fair will be holding it's AGM in the Civic Centre. I will be stepping down from the role of Chair and would like to take this opportunity to say it has been a great pleasure to work with this committee and town to bring this event to so many. I have been on the committee for 10 years and think it is time for someone else to take the reins. If you think you have something to offer the running of this great regional event, I suggest you come along to the AGM, have a think about joining the committee and make this already great event into something really special.

Sue Scarman
Chairman
The Laura Fair
0418844935

Below — more entries in the Laura Fair Parade including the Pipes and Drums of the Royal Caledonian Society.



Rocky River Historic & Art Society Inc

Art Exhibition at the Laura Fair

The 46th annual art exhibition was held in the Courthouse Gallery during The Laura Fair. As one of the earliest, and hence longest running exhibitions in regional South Australia it attracts both local and visiting artists. The Guest Artist for this year was Lynne Gibb of Orroroo who provided a selection of artworks depicting flora and fauna. The RRHAS and exhibiting artists are delighted with a successful sales rate of 22% of artworks displayed.

The Dick Biles Encouragement Award for an Emerging Regional Artist was awarded to Gaynor Growden of Gladstone, and several Laura students gained commendations in the *Barbara Kleinig Junior Art Exhibition*, fostering an interest in art from students of Gladstone High School and the primary schools of the catchment area of Gladstone High.

A successful opening of the exhibition was held late Friday afternoon, a change from previous years because of another function in the town. Proceedings included the launch of the newest Gladstone High Shiraz with an attractive label designed by Year 9 student, Jackson Fudge.

The Laura Collection

Our collection of paintings from past exhibitions normally hangs in the Courthouse Gallery but has been creating interest, and admiration, whilst on display at the Belalie Gallery in Jamestown. The collection, which is a significant town asset includes an artwork from each of our 46 annual exhibitions, and other periodic exhibitions.

Wakefield Press at the Laura Archives during The Laura Fair

We were again privileged to have Michael Bollen and daughter Milly of well known **Wakefield Press** selling books in the Laura Archives building. Wakefield has an eclectic range of publications including their specialty, South Australiana, general Australian publications, Holden cars, art, gardens and many more. Several recent launches were on sale including the book by Martin Hamilton-Smith chronicling the rise and fall of seven SA political leaders. Regardless of which side of the political fence you are on, Liberal, Labour or independent (he has been all!) and love or despise his party hopping, this is a gem of Australian political writings as only Martin has had privileged insights into all sides of politics. Also available was Valerie Volk's, *Witnesses*, with her quirky insights into some biblical characters, and Don Loffler's publications on early Holdens.

There is something for everyone in the Wakefield range.

Just Google Wakefield Press for good deals...and good reading!

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Volunteer/volunteers Wanted

We have an old printing press, similar to that used in The Laura Standard printing office. Once assembled and painted it will be an important display item in the Laura Archives in the display to be developed depicting Laura in the 1890s during the boyhood era of CJ Dennis. Some practical skills are all that are needed as well as some brute muscle power as some components are heavy. Any expressions of interest, or financial support, will be welcomed.

Please phone Greg on 0417 877 145. or any other committee member.



*Photos above - Left : Rowan Ramsey MP with Mike and Haley O'Shea from Peterborough;
Right—Lynne Gibb, artist from Orroroo
Below— Lynne Gibb with extended family*





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13th & 20th July
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Laura Community Caravan Park News:



April saw a bumper time for the caravan park and the town with the Laura Fair making a successful return, followed by Easter and the Smith family reunion all in the month of April. This has been followed by the start of our peak tourist season with large numbers of visitors to the region enjoying their stay with us in Laura.

We were lucky enough to be included in the ABC broadcast from Golden North by Narelle Graham and the follow up news article about the park on the ABC website has attracted even more attention and visitors to Laura wanting to stay and enjoy Naomi's freshly baked scones (pictured below).



Photo above Russell Lines, Jack Wallis, Pam Harslett and Tammie Nettle visit the Caravan Park

Coming on the last Sunday in August is our 50th anniversary celebration, more details and an advert will follow in the next edition of The Laura Standard.

On the June long weekend the park is fully booked and we are putting on an evening meal and entertainment on the Sunday night (June 11th) for our guests and anyone from the community that would like to attend. Steve McBride will be providing the entertainment and we are cooking baked potatoes & pasta followed by Fruit crumble and Golden North Ice-cream for \$15 a head. There will be raffles with more local produce on offer on the night.

Our new laundry is now open with 2 additional washing machines and 2 dryers available for public use, just a reminder to community members wishing to use them that if the park is quite full please come another time as demand for the laundry will be high.

Naomi & Simon Purdue

Aus Condon Memorial Golf Day

**Thursday 20th July 2023 at
The Laura Golf Club
10.00am start
Team 4's Ambrose competition**



\$100.00 per team & includes; *Morning tea, Lunch & Afternoon Tea*

Championship Event

Handicap Event

Long Drive (Ladies No 9 & 18 : Men No 7 & 16)

Nearest to the pin; Ladies No 1 & No 10

Men No 5 & No 14

Prize money for Hole in One

No 1 & No 10

No 5 & No 14

**All proceeds to the
Laura Community Development & Tourism Association**

Entries to Val Thomson by 10th July 2023 0427 771 558



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Left to right: Darcy, Todd & Alex

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FEEDBACK INVITED ON NORTHERN AREAS COUNCIL PLANS



Northern Areas Council's draft Annual Business Plan & Budget for the 2023/24 financial year are out for public consultation, along with Council's longer term financial plan.

Key aspect of the proposed 2023/24 Annual Business Plan & Budget include:
More than \$1.8 million for re-sheeting unsealed roads across the Council area;
\$574,000 to reseal existing sealed roads;
\$250,000 toward footpath improvements – a doubling of the previous allocation
\$162,000 for bridge improvements;
\$140,000 toward playgrounds – also doubled from previous years;
\$135,000 for hall compliance upgrades.

Mayor Sue Scarman said Council had discussed the need to focus on getting plans, programs and strategies in place in the coming year to ensure the Council was delivering in line with community expectations and had 'shovel ready' projects in the pipeline.

"We've taken a prudent approach in drafting the plans for this coming year to make sure we can focus on getting our plans and programs right, to set us up for grant funding opportunities in future years while ensuring longer term financial sustainability," Mayor Scarman said.

"We are also mindful of the cost of living pressures in the community, so we are proposing a relatively modest rate rise of 4.7% overall for 2023/24.

"As occurs each year some ratepayers may pay marginally more or marginally less due to property revaluations, we feel this average increase is at the right level to help us deliver the services required without severely impacting our ratepayers.

Copies of the draft Annual Business Plan & Budget, along with Council's draft 10-year Long Term Financial Plan are available for viewing:

Online on Council's website www.nacouncil.sa.gov.au, or;

In hard copy at Council's Jamestown, Gladstone and Spalding offices

Written feedback can be provided:

By email to admin@nacouncil.sa.gov.au

By post to CEO, Northern Areas Council, PO Box 120 Jamestown SA 5491

Via the online feedback form on Council's website

One hour will be set aside at the start of Council's Ordinary Meeting on Tuesday 20 June 2023 from 6pm at the Jamestown Council Chamber if anyone would like to make a verbal submission or ask any questions.

For media comment please contact: Mayor Scarman on 0418 844 935
For further information contact: CEO Kelly Westell on 0400 094 894



LAURA COMMUNITY GYM

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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.**



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:

**** July 21st ** Sep 22nd ** Nov 24th 2023 ****

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





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 and Articles: Contact: Wayne Gifford on **0419 816 976**.
 Bronwyn Weston on **0438 635 061**

*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 H 19.35cm x 12.75cm \$40.00	1/2 Page H 9.6cm x 12.75cm \$25.00	1/3 Page H 6.32cm x 12.75cm \$15.00
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Latest time to submit articles

for inclusion in the August edition of The Laura Standard is
5pm Friday July 21st 2023



Seed and Soil

Over the last few weeks a lot of sowing of seed has been done around the district. Now we just want the rain to follow it up! This process of sowing and reaping is one that has been going on for thousands of years. But not everything remains the same. For example, the size and complexity of the farm machinery available today is totally different from what was available 50 years ago, let alone before the internal combustion engine!

But, it is not just the machinery that has changed, there have been advances in other areas as well – the varieties of crops and seeds, the use and make up of fertilisers and even supposedly more accurate weather forecasts. Through all of these advances humankind is trying to make farming more certain, to ensure the best possible result.

While these advances may in theory make farming easier and more certain, the reality is we can't make it rain. And we certainly can't make it rain when and where we want it to. Similarly, we can plant seeds, but we can't make them grow. No matter how much we know or learn, there are things that we just can't do or control.

Consequently, we can't solely rely on our own knowledge or effort. Yes, what we do have an impact but each year in his mercy, ultimately it is God who grants us a harvest – and yes, some years he is more merciful than others.

But for there to be any harvest, the seed first has to be planted. And the seed that is planted has to give up its own life to sprout up with new life, so that from that one seed, many seeds may grow.

That is why God sent his Son Jesus into the world. And that is why Jesus willingly laid down his life for us. His body was then planted in the ground and like a seed, it sprang to life again!

Through his death, Jesus bears much fruit. He gives life to all those who put their faith and trust in him. That one seed Jesus, through his death has produced a plentiful harvest, a harvest that is still increasing and will continue to increase to the end of time. And God's harvest is a harvest that is certain and will last for all eternity!

Stephen Noblett (Pastor) Southern Flinders Lutheran Parish.

0439 346 972