

December 2023 Issue 54

Hello Readers,

Welcome to the Christmas 2023 edition of the Laura Standard. The countryside certainly did turn quite quickly towards the end of the season, and despite being held up with rain, the district has been very busy. While it is always a hectic time for everyone in our community let's hope that people can enjoy some family time over Christmas.

The LCDTA has been working towards installing a Basketball Half Court and Outdoor Table Tennis Table at the North Parklands in recent months. We have been very fortunate to have received funding from the Rocky River Lions Club towards the Basketball ring and to have also won a grant from Energy Australia to purchase the Table Tennis table. We are also hoping to receive some sponsorship towards the concrete. A planning application has been submitted and so hopefully this project can be completed sometime early in the New Year. This will be a great addition to the parklands that can be enjoyed by kids, young and old, for many years to come.

Other things happening to help maintain our town's appeal lately have been that the seating at the War Memorial was removed, re-varnished and then re-fitted just in time for Remembrance Day. This work was completed by former LCDTA member Wayne Gifford. Also, after a working bee some months ago to spruce up the Nita Klemm Gardens, Craig Blesing has sprayed out all the weeds from between the pavers and Barry Harvie, Gibber and Marty Gilbert have completed spreading manure and bark chips amongst the garden beds. Darren Pech and Craig Blesing have also had a busy time moving sprinklers around at the North

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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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Parklands as we continue to wait for the council and SA Water to rectify the issues with water supply to the irrigation system. I'd like to personally thank not only these people but everyone who volunteers in our community. It's great that so many locals take pride in our town.

The LCDTA will again be running a Christmas Raffle this year with some great cash prizes on offer. This has been a very successful fundraiser for a number of years now, so if you see a volunteer selling tickets at the front of the IGA on Friday and Saturday mornings throughout December, please stop, say hello, and buy a ticket.

The Nature Playground sub committee also have another Slice Drive running in December. These have been very well supported previously and are a great idea heading into the Christmas festivities. There will be 60 packs, pre-sold, to be collected from the Sporting Reserve on the 21st and 22nd of December. Any left-over packs will be sold at the Christmas "Party in the Park".

The recent "Meals to You" was another success with 34 meals being purchased. Thanks again to everyone involved, organisers, cooks and purchasers. The next round of Meals to You will be in February 2024.

The Community Calendar has again been very well supported by local businesses, including 4 new businesses coming onboard this year. The calendar continues to be a great resource for the local community. Please keep an eye out for it as volunteers deliver it around town in the lead up to the New Year.

The Northern Areas Council will be holding a free seminar on Food Handling Safety in the Laura Civic Centre on the 5th of December at 9:30am. This is in response to new Food Safety Standards being introduced next year and can also be done online if you are unable to attend the seminar. There is further information about this in this edition of the Laura Standard and also on the Laura Community Facebook page.

The Laura Lights project is again forging ahead this year, with the Christmas Banners being put up and lights being turned on in the main street. After the success of last year the LCDTA will again be holding a Christmas Light Competition with prizes for 1st and 2nd place, People's Choice and Best Business. Winners will be announced again at this year's "Party in the Park".

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The Christmas "Party in the Park" will this year take place on Friday the 22nd of December. There will again be a BBQ, sweets, music, kids' activities, the announcement of Raffle and Lights Competition winners and of course a visit from Father Christmas. Hopefully we again get nice weather and a good crowd can enjoy a great night as we wind down towards Christmas.

Lastly, I'd like to congratulate and thank Naomi Purdue, who has signed on to stay as manager of the Laura Community Caravan Park for another 3 years. I'm sure everyone would agree that the Caravan Park continues to go from strength to strength and that Naomi and Simon have been very welcome additions to our community.

On behalf of the LCDTA I'd like to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year, and hope that everyone can start afresh for a productive and fulfilling 2024.

Thanks Gerald Higgins Chairman LCDTA



FREE FOOD HANDLER TRAINING

NORTHERN AREAS

Council are providing a free Food Handler Training as a response to new legislative changes.

Who needs to do the course?

Anyone who handles and prepares food for sale including volunteers, community groups & food businesses.

Please note: This course does not include Food Safety Supervisor Certification required for category one (restaurants, cafes, bakeries) & category two (delis, supermarkets and service stations) food businesses.

Where can I access the course?

The course can be completed online at: <u>www.dofoodsafely.health.vic.gov.au</u> or you can attend one of our face-to-face training sessions:

Monday 4th December 2023

Spalding Town Hall 9.30am Jamestown Sir Hubert Wilkins Building 1.30pm

Tuesday 5th December 2023:

Laura Civic Centre 9.30am Gladstone Hall Yangya Room 1.30pm

Wednesday 6th December 2023:

Georgetown Town Hall 10am

Courses will run for approximately 2 hrs.

Receive a food handling training certificate on completion of the training.

Enrol now by phoning 86641139 or email admin@nacouncil.sa.gov.au

For further information:

www.nacouncil.sa.gov.au/latest-news/food-handling-and-safety-training Legislative changes will apply from December 8th 2023

FUNDRAISING

Meals to You

A big thank you to the kitchen cooks for their ongoing support with Meals to You. Another successful fundraising effort with 35 items made and 34 sold. The last item was part of the Nature Playground Prizes from their very successful Mother's Day Raffle. A total of \$1135 was collected with costs yet to be deducted.

My best guess is that we will hold 4 Meals to You in 2024 starting in February, with 3 monthly gaps.

Food Handlers Training

As mentioned in other places in the Standard our very capable team will soon be asked to provide evidence of having completed a food handler training. Northern Areas Council has provided information re face to face training as well as online training in this Standard.

Calendar

Five hundred and fifty calendars will be purchased this year for distribution between Christmas and the New Year. Thank you to local businesses and community organisations for their ongoing support of the calendar. The calendar, - as a one stop directory makes a significant contribution to our knowing our community.

Raffle

The LCDTA raffle is on sale at the front of the IGA shop again this year, with tickets being sold on Friday and Saturday for the first 3 weeks of December. Thanks to Sahota and team for their help with organising the raffle.

Raffle prizes are -

First prize \$300 Third prize \$100 Second prize \$150 Fourth prize \$50

A big thank you to the Laura Information Centre, whose committee are again providing the prize money for the raffle.

Tickets are again \$3 each or 4 for \$10 or a book of 10 for \$25. Raffle to be drawn at the Party in the Park in the North Parklands on Friday 22nd December.

Nature Playground Group's Slice Drive

The Christmas Slice Drive will be advertised soon on the Facebook page. Pre – ordered packs will be available on December 21st with any remaining trays being available for purchase at the Party in the Park on 22/12/23.



LAURA RSL SUB-BRANCH ANNUAL REPORT 2023

This year has been a very busy one for RSL SA/NT and the many Sub-Branches.

The new amended RSL State Constitution was accepted at the State Mid year Conference 2023.

A working party has been formed to consider and amend the State Sub-Branch By-Laws to be presented at this year's Conference. At the Conference 2023 a new State President was elected, **Mr David Petersen** from Crystal Brook RSL. The out-going President, **Mrs Cheryl Cates** was thanked sincerely for her effort guiding RSL SA/NT through the past Administration crisis.

The incumbent President David, is very passionate about RSL SA/NT, care and welfare of Veterans.

Our Sub-Branch had a very successful year. Both **ANZAC and REMEMBRANCE Days** were well attended. It appears that even though our Veteran numbers are dwindling, the support from the surrounding District is increasing. The Laura Sub-Branch thanks the new Service and Affiliate Members for their thoughts and support.

The attendance of the **Laura Primary** and **Gladstone High** school children and teachers at the ceremonies has a tremendous effect on our Veterans. We all know that to have the great Australian lifestyle and wonderful country we live in, sacrifices were given with pride and this can/ will prevail if we learn from history. On behalf of all RSL members we thank the Pupils, Principals and Teachers for participating in preserving our history.

Speaking of history, one of the Laura RSL's most treasured and loved icons passed away late this year. **Jack Wallis**, as known by all, a true mate to all our present and past members. He never missed our ceremonies in memory of his many lost friends, a true patriot of our country. **You will be missed Jack. R.I.P.**

Earlier this year our membership numbers began to fall, mainly due to members moving away from our District due to age or health reasons. With the adoption of the new Constitution Sub -Branch By-Laws (if not amended), our Sub -Branch may have ceased. The situation was filtered to the District and the response was great, our district is showing true patriotism and our RSL will survive.

The Laura Standard

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We have a net gain in membership this year and more new members would be welcome. The more members of a community who would practice the RSL motto, "**THE PRICE OF LIBERTY IS ETERNAL VIGILANCE**" must help our country in the future.

This year, Heather and I representing the RSL members, had the honour to attend the 100th birthday of our oldest member **Mrs Marion Taylor**. A lovely celebration for a lovely lady. The accolades from King and Country were well deserved. We wish you happiness and good health for the future.

The Laura RSL Xmas Dinner will again be held at the North Laura Hotel on the 1st December this year. I would like to thank our patron **Mr Peter Condon** for his generosity and good will towards our community. I am sure all members will meet and enjoy fine fare at a fine venue.

A MERRY XMAS TO ALL FROM THE LAURA RSL MEMBERS,

Keep the Flag flying, Trev Mckerlie President Laura RSL.



safe Christmas & happy new year.

Member Petals – Easyflowers - Interflora – Delivering Locally Nationally Internationally

Hampers - Cut flowers – Centerpieces - Fruit & Flower Baskets - Gifts

Flower Storm *Christmas Closure 23rd December 2023 – 3rd January 2024* Phone **0403220199 -www.flowerstorm.com.au – www.fleurdelisebb.com**

Laura Community Caravan Park News:



October was a bumper month in the caravan park with huge numbers of visitors to Laura and the Southern Flinders region.

We welcomed the Australian Off Road (AOR) club to Laura during October with nearly 50 people exploring the region and spending money in our town. On the Saturday night of their stay the park put on a dinner for them with funds raised going towards a shelter to be erected over our bicycle repair station to add another reason for people to choose Laura as a destination.

As we are writing this article we are hosting the Christmas get together of the A-Van club with nearly 40 vans spending 4 nights in Laura. This will be our 8th club visiting us in 2023 with the numbers growing every year of group bookings as the word is getting around SA of the wonders of our community.

Next on the plans for the park are a second amenities block with specific disabled facilities to cater for those with medical and mobility issues. We hope to have this in place by mid-way through 2024 as well as an additional 6 powered sites by the end of this year.

Wishing everyone a safe and Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Naomi & Simon Purdue







Laura

A poem by Allen Heading

I've travelled far in Australia, over backroads, in cities I did roam Of all the wonderful places I've seen I am contented to call Laura my home

Settled in a beautiful valley where the Rocky River winds it's way to the sea

Marked by a magnificent stand of river gums, growing for eternity

Travelers tend to drive on through to destination of more renown But of late by staying have discovered the wonders of this little town With a background of the Flinders Ranges stretching to the horizon's unseen

The wonderland panorama springtime brings, with fields of gold and green

A short meandering drive reveals gorges and views of nature's best Panoramic vista of our farmland to the east, dazzling blue of the gulf to the west Overtime, artists have found inspiration in what nature has chosen to

provide

What the people of this town want to share with rightful pride

While our little town is not a large dot on the map It stands proud, having survived 150 years, now that is quite a gap With lots of top class accommodation in which to stay When you visit, to see everything will take more than a day

NOW AVAILABLE

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Northern Areas/ Mount Remarkable/ Port Pirie Regional Council Areas (other regions by negotiation)

- Martin Gilbert 0418831007
- Lorraine Gilbert 0417824739

Mol	bile L	ibra	Wishing all of our borrowers and the communit a Merry Christmas. The Library Truck is off the road from the 16th Decembe —1st January, but is always open online! Library membership gives you access to a 300,000+ e-books e-audio books and e-magazines on your digital devices for — FREE.		
	December	January	February	The 2 apps the Library uses	are:
LAURA	Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday		
12.45 - 4.15pm	5	2, 16, 30	13, 27		
WIRRABARA					Borrow Box.
10.15 -					An extension of the second
11.45am	Thursday	Thursday	Thursday	Libby	BorrowBox
APPILA	14	11, 25	8, 22	and adults fiction, non-fiction	material available, both children on from cook books and biograph
2.30 - 3.30pm					scientific publications—in both All for free and available wherever
RETURN BO Council Office		Wirrabara L		you are! Links to download the apps www.onecard.network/flinde	are available from our website: ersmobile
For more information -				Library staff are always w	illing to help in Mobile Librar
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Laura Archives 1925 Football Premiers

A significant part of Laura's history found a safe haven in the Laura Archives on Melbourne Cup Day. However aside from being a trophy it has nothing to do with the Melbourne Cup.

This significant item is the CA Goldfinch Northern Areas Football Association Cup which was to be retained by the first team to win it twice. The Laura lads did that in 1921 and 1925 and so the cup stayed in Laura. After amalgamation with Wirrabara in 1972 it was seen sometimes in both hotels but was more often under a counter or in a cupboard and at various times declared 'lost'.

Alan Thomson, the last Secretary of the Laura Football Club has always been the person most interested in its security, and has had custody of it in recent years. Following the Laura 150 celebrations last year when it was on display, he has lodged it in our archives for safe custody. It will certainly be in safe hands for our town bicentenary in 2072.

The Laura A Grade team took out premierships in 1904, 1912 and1913 as a member of the Flinders Association. Later as a member of Northern Areas Association, premierships were gained in 1914, 1915, 1921, 1925 and in 1953 when both A and B teams were Premiers.

The 1904 premiership aroused so much interest that $\pounds 67/10/5$ (\$135.04) was raised to build a grandstand with changerooms at the oval which was then located in the north parklands where the caravan park is now.

It was moved to the present oval in 1953 when the new sporting precinct was established...that's another story of strong community determination and commitment.



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1925 Laura premiership team with the cup

Played at Gladstone oval against Gladstone on 5 September 1925 the final scores were: Laura 2 goals 6 behinds, Gladstone 1 goal 8 behinds.

Gladstone player Haylock was described in the *Laura Standard* as having "almost solved the problem of perpetual motion". The match report can be found on the internet by following: *Trove newspapers, Laura Standard, September 1925.*



Back Row; H Andrews (masseur), W Carkeet (delegate), Henry Humphries, Mark Kennedy, E Wilson (boundary umpire), CO Lehmann, Albert Bray, Ted Winter (Secretary)

Third Row: JH Chandler (coach), HR Lehmann, G Boehm, G Carter, C Kearns, Don McKenzie, H Murphy, Mick Emes, S Smith (coach), W Adams (assistant secretary)

Second Row; G Cleggett (time keeper), HP Rogers, PH Scarlet (Captain), IM Bills (President), J (Woody) Chandler, Rev J Leslie Asser, R Cleggett (Patron)

Front Row; GH Fuller, W Pasche, Les Lehmann, Herb Reichstein. Some Laura residents such as myself will recognize these names, and will have memories of some of the people.

Greg Slattery President, Rocky River Historic & Art Society Inc.

Our Artists and their Art Forms-

Tina Moore

In this edition of the Laura Standard we meet Tina Moore whose passion is Block Printing.

Tina's journey to block printing started with an Art Workshop sponsored by Laura Cares (one of the predecessors of the LCDTA). The art workshop was followed by Tina enrolling at Gladstone High School to do Year 12 Art as an adult student with Peter Hughes as her teacher. This was more than 20 years ago.



Tina's block prints start as a wooden block, into which she carves her "pictures". She makes two types of blocks for printing.

The multi plate block prints - the same block is used multiple times with a variety of colours and placement of colours. With this method she can make 7 or 8 prints which are a variation of the one theme, ie variations of colour and additional shapes.

Reduction printing – after each colour the block is re-carved before the addition of a new colour.

Tina is part of (and now the organiser of) a print making exchange known as SSNM (Southern Summers Northern Winters). This group consists of print makers from the United States, Canada, Japan and Australia. Twice each year group members send multiple copies of a print to Tina. When she has all 18 Tina then repackages the prints into a bundle for each member, sharing prints and therefore ideas and techniques.

During COVID, with the shop shut more than open, Tina began making pop up books, combining her love of printing and of the sea into books. Another variation of Tina's work is acrylic based screen printing, - the printed aprons and bags sold through the Laura Information Centre are an example of this work.

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Tina was fortunate to acquire 180 containers of printer's ink – of various sizes and quality from the decommissioned print room of the old Royal Adelaide Hospital. These inks remain the base for all her printing including block prints, pop-up books and paper craft. To get the colour she wants she mixes her colours with an extender and builds the layers of colours from light to dark.

"There is always an element of surprise with print making. I have in my head what I am aiming for and sometimes something different is the product. It's not wrong, just different, a lovely surprise.

There is an endless variation of things I can do and eventually I hope to run an Art Gallery, which she plans to call Zebadee Prints."

Tina's work is available for sale both at Flinders Shoes, (including their website) and on Etsy.





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Government of South Australia

Southern Flinders Health Advisory Council

Southern Flinders Health Advisory Council

Annual General Meeting Report

The AGM of SFHAC was held on 26th October 2023 in the Crystal Brook Hospital Activity Room. Yorke and Northern Local Health Network Regional board member, Julianne Badenoch attended the meeting and presented a report on behalf of the Regional Board.

SFHAC membership remains the same and consists of -Presiding Member Brian Higgins

- Community
RepresentativesJo Grossman, Bronny Perry & Shane Kirk
from Crystal Brook
Jenni Cleggett and Lorraine Griffin from
Laura
Bev Harris and Kathy Webb from Gladstone
- Member of Parliament Rep Linda Deans
- Local Government Rep Fiona Hockey
- Staff representative Amanda Kittel

Medical Practitioner rep

Dr Helen Robertson

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stonehutcottages@gmail.com

www.stonehutcottages.com.au

Laura Information Centre



<u>www.laurasa.com.au</u> If you would like to have some information added to this website or you see something that needs updating, please email <u>laura.sa.information@gmail.com</u>





For all domestic, commercial & industrial wiring, rewiring, undergrounds, upgrades and general electrical needs including solar installation & maintenance.

Phone Koby Nettle 0418 562 626

PO Box 84, Laura SA 5480 koby.nettle@outlook.com

PGE 207037

LAURA MARKETS

A community event at the Laura Memorial CivicCentre

Thank You to the Laura community for supporting the Laura Markets in 2023.

Nikki and Dan look forward to seeing you at the markets in 2024.

Follow our Facebook and Instagram pages : <u>Laura Markets</u>

Stallholder enquiries:

Nikki 0410 459560

or Dan: 0434 371116







Laura Christmas Party in the Park

😽 Friday 22nd December from 6pm in the Laura Parklands

BBQ, dessert and soft drinks available

Visit from Santa, face painting and activities planned

BYO chair, picnic rug



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 **Deb Palmer 0408 082 614.**





SAND & METAL SUPPLIES

Free Delivery in Laura or pick up from 11 Bristow St

Bobcat & Excavator Hire: Trenching & Earthworks

Ph. Wayne: 0428 810 338 or Joel: 0457 846 033 Best wishes for Christmas and for 2024



LET'S LIGHT UP LAURA THIS CHRISTMAS Prizes kindly donated by the Laura Caravan Park 1st prize \$300

2nd prize \$200

People's choice \$100

Best business display receives a business

promotion prize pack

People's choice voting to be done at the Party in the Park. Winners also announced on the night

Eligible household and businesses must enter their address to Hannah Pech on 0427282194 by December 10th. Judging date TBA

Key dates over the festive season

Council Office hours



Closes: 12:00pm Thursday 21st December 2023 **Open:** 9:00am Tuesday 2nd January 2024 Gladstone office will open at reduced business hours during Jan and Feb; January opening hours: Monday, Wednesday 9:00am – 5:00pm February opening hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00am – 5:00pm

Gladstone office will return to normal business hours from March: Monday – Thursday 9:00am – 5:00pm.

Jamestown

Closes: 12:00pm Thursday 21st December 2023 **Open:** 9:00am Tuesday 2nd January 2024 Jamestown office returns to normal business hours from Tuesday 2nd January.

Waste Pickup

Christmas Day Monday the 25th December 2023 Changed to Tuesday the 26th December 2023.

New Year's Day Monday the 1st January 2024 Changed to Tuesday the 2nd January 2024.

All other dates remain the same.

Transfer Station opening times:

Gladstone: Wednesday 9:00am-11:00am, Sunday 1:00pm-4:00pm. **Jamestown**: Wednesday 12:00pm-3:00pm, Sunday 10:00am-1:00pm. **Spalding:** Tuesday 4:00pm- 5:00pm, Sunday 3:00pm-5:00pm. Closed Tuesday 26th December 2023.

Contact

General enquiries: (08) 8664 1139 / <u>admin@nacouncil.sa.gov.au</u> After Hours Contact for Council related Emergencies: 0488 999 808 Dog and Cat Management: 0497 322 737 Northern Areas Council website: www.nacouncil.sa.gov.au or check our Facebook page.



Fire Danger Season 1st November – April 30th 2024

Council will continue to inspect properties throughout the fire danger season to help manage fire risk.

Have you made your Bushfire Survival Plan? A good plan is:

- Prepared well before the Fire Danger Season and reviewed each year
- Written down, so that the details are to hand when you need them Practiced regularly so you know how it will go on the day
- Created with the whole family and covers everyone
- Can adapt to unforeseen circumstances
- Includes what to do:
- before the Fire Danger Season on a Total Fire Ban day
- during a bushfire after a bushfire
- Create your own <u>5 Minute Bushfire</u> <u>Plan</u>
- Refer to www.cfs.sa.gov.au for further information



Best wishes to all our clients for Christmas and the New Year



Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year from the team at JP Build



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The Laura Emporium

Local arts and Crafts
Gifts and Cookware
Jams and Spreads
Boiled Lollies
Funny Signs
Art Gallery

Meryle's Café
Knives
Pickles and Sauces
Antiques
Candles and Soaps
Shell Display

If we don't have it you don't need it!

Buying and selling antiques and household items

Shop 0473 656 807 or 0408 818 088





Finding a Justice of the Peace:

Jon Hawkins-Clarke0417 849 441James Heaslip0408 635 001Geoff Lange0427 632 334David Medlow Smith0403 035 231Lynette Pech0418 892 131John Stevens8663 2303Jodie Zwar0457 745 586

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 2024 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 Icdta5480@gmail.com by 5pm on the following dates:

** Jan 19th 2024 ** March 22nd 2024 ** May 24th 2024 ** **July 26th 2024 ** September 20th 2024 ** ** November 22nd 2024 **

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: Secretary: Laura Standard Editor: Gerald Higgins 0431 754 429 Darren Pech 0429 705 520 Laura Standard Committee

Reports, articles and advertising for the Laura Standard can be submitted by email to Icdta5480@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.

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
н 19.35cm	н 9.6cm x	н 6.32cm x
x 12.75cm	12.75cm	12.75cm
\$40.00	\$25.00	\$15.00

Latest time to submit articles

for inclusion in the February 2024

edition of The Laura Standard is

5pm Friday Jan 19th, 2024.

The real joy of Christmas



Are you looking forward to Christmas?

Not everyone looks forward to Christmas and maybe you're one of them. For some people, rather than being a time of joy and celebration Christmas is a time of loneliness and isolation or even stress and aggravation.

Part of the reason that occurs is that we are striving for and wanting the perfect Christmas. With the perfect family where everyone getting along shares the workload and can celebrating together in peace and harmony.

Just one small problem, we don't live in a perfect world, things do go wrong. Our Christmas meal doesn't always turn out, people don't always get along and with financial pressures, sometimes the only thing that we seem to find in our Christmas stocking is holes!

Maybe you are feeling like that? After all, this year hasn't been the greatest harvest on record, sheep prices are not what they were, and the cost of living seems to be going up faster than a thermometer on a baking summers day.

Well, no matter how bad your year has been or how alone you are feeling. I have some good news for you. You are not alone at Christmas or at any other time, simply because of God's gift to you at Christmas.

God's gift to you is Jesus - that little child lying in the manger! Jesus is a gift that never wears out or breaks, and is just as good today as it was on the day that He was born. It is truly a one size fits all gift, that comes batteries included, and it's a gift that keeps on giving, and more to the point it is forgiving!

When we look at Jesus there is a joy that is beyond human telling, there, in that child is love personified – total selfless love, infinite and inexpressible all contained in that one small package. Because that little child grew up and took on your sins and saved you, yes you!

You see that is where the real joy of Christmas is – not in what we do, but in what God did for us. Because with Jesus you are never alone and you have a friend for all eternity, who loves you, listens to you, walks with you and saves you. And you will never get a better present than that!

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

