



February 2025 Issue 61

Hello Readers,

Welcome to the first edition of the Laura Standard for 2025, It's hard to believe that we are now a quarter of the way through this Century. I hope that, despite the heat, everyone enjoyed a relaxing Christmas and New Year with family and friends and are refreshed and ready to tackle what will hopefully be a prosperous year.

We again enjoyed fantastic weather at the "Party in the Park", and despite numbers being a bit down this year, all in attendance had a great time. The live music from Virjilla Joyce was very popular as were the children's activities and of course Father Christmas was a hit with the Kids. BBQ tea was cooked by the Sporting Reserve and fruit salad provided by the Bowls Club and I'd like to thank them and all the other volunteers who helped make the night a success. The Christmas Raffle was also drawn and the winners of the "Laura Lights" were announced.

The "Nature Playground" subcommittee has also had some good news in recent months, with Council giving the project the go ahead and the Laura Sporting Reserve pledging their financial support towards the project. In the next few months they plan to have the final plans completed and are looking forward to being able to share them with the community.

The "Rocky River Community Shed" is only in its infancy but will be holding a morning tea and information session on the 10th of February at 10am in Laura's RSL hall. Please keep an eye out for posters around Laura and surrounding towns and for more info you can find them on Facebook.

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

Everyone should hopefully have received their Community Calanders in the week leading up to the New Year. A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped to deliver them around town and also to Felicity and Peter at the Post Office for distributing them to those who have a Post Box. If you need an extra copy, there are some available at the Laura Information Centre.

I'd like to congratulate Ben van Boekel on his Northern Areas Council "Citizen of the Year" award. Although hailing from Caltowie and not strictly a Laura local, Ben holds Martial Arts classes in Laura and spends his winters volunteering at the Southern Flinders Football Club where his boys play junior football. You can read all about Ben's achievements on the Northern Areas Council Facebook page and see what a worthy recipient he is. Also, to Roger Hunt on his "Active Citizen" award. Roger and his wife, Heather, have lived in Stone Hut for the best part of 20 years and have become valued members of that community with their volunteer work. Congratulations to both these men and all the Australia Day Award recipients.

Lastly, I'd like to thank everyone who continues to submit articles to the Laura Standard.

A dedicated team of people do an amazing job volunteering to put together each Standard, and your contributions make their job just that bit easier.

If you are part of a local Sporting or Community group and you have anything that you think would be of interest to our local community, we'd love to hear from you. Articles for the pre Laura Fair Standard are due on March 14th.

On behalf of the LCDTA I'd like to wish everyone a safe, happy and prosperous 2025.

Thanks
Gerald Higgins
Chairman LCDTA

LCDTA Fundraising Report

The Raffle raised just over \$1648.20. A big thank you to the Laura Information Centre for providing the prize money for this year's raffle

- First prize, \$300 - Jenny McCallum, Laura
- Second Prize, \$150 - Amanda Wittenberg Adelaide but with a block on Lookout Road
- Third Prize, \$100 - David Downs. - Laura Ticket bought on the night of the Party in the Park!
- Fourth Prize \$50 - Yvette Uren, Adelaide. Ticket bought passing through Laura

Once again the funds raised will be used within the community.

Community Calendar

Many thanks to the businesses and organisations who supported the 2025 calendar. As happens each year some businesses no longer need to be part of the calendar and others join. Significantly it remains a reliable community directory.

To our volunteer deliverers – a big thank you. Your efforts, taking the time to hand deliver the calendar to the homes in Laura, remains an important part of the focus we have in the town; that of community connection. Other volunteers I need to acknowledge are Felicity and Peter in our local Post Office. Their work in distributing calendars to those who have a post box is much appreciated.

This year spare calendars will be available at the Laura Information Centre. Total funds raised this year were \$3368 with \$2024.60 being paid to Copy King for artwork and printing. A total of \$1327.40 profit.

Laura Information Centre

Open Daily 10 - 4
Ph: 8663 2260

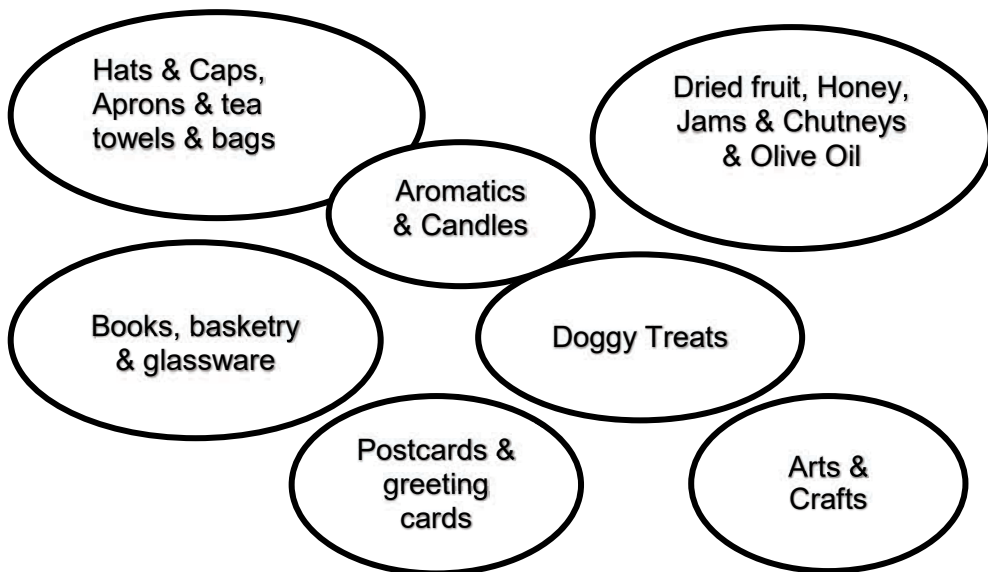


For all your local and state information,
maps and pamphlets

We also stock: * Golden North Giant Twins

Christmas is over and a new year has started – thank you for your support over the holiday time and we look forward to seeing you often during 2025.

If you would like to join us as a volunteer (shifts are just 3 hours, morning or afternoon and training is provided) do come in and talk to us – we're a friendly crew



Did you know.....

This year the Laura Information Centre will celebrate 20 years – it began in November 2005. It was an initiative of the Laura Community Development & Tourism Association, which found the initial finance, but the Centre could only be realised with generous donations of time and equipment from many people in the community. Frequent fundraising through raffles and donations as a 'Friend of the Laura Information Centre' allowed LIC to grow and develop. The first year saw over 3000 visitors come in and enjoy a warm welcome.



Little Blessings Brewing

We will be closed for the month of
February for a break.

Reopening Saturday March 1st.

Thank you to everyone for their support,
visits, smiles and fun during the last year.

We have lots of exciting plans brewing for
2025, including our

1st Birthday celebrations in April!

Stay tuned for details!

Cheers,

The Little Blessings Brewing Team



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or call Nicole 0438 681 614



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LAURA SPORTING RESERVE

TUES, WED & THURS @ 5.45AM

TUES & THURS @ 7.30AM

**START YOUR
TRAINING
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ALL WELCOME

****GYM MEMBERSHIP NOT REQUIRED****

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FOR MORE INFO
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Laura Oval Playground – The Nature Playground

A couple of things to report, - thank you to all those that continue to back our project especially the people who helped get it over the line at the December Northern Areas Council meeting. It was unfortunately a tied vote at the November meeting but after following up some maintenance concerns and other questions, our proposal was passed at the December meeting.

Again, thank you to those who attended the Council meeting on 10th December 2024. It was great to see that what our little community finds important is listened to and what we can achieve when we work together.

Emily Alm and Sophie Millington met with the Laura Sporting Reserve Committee on Tuesday 17th December to discuss financial support from them for the playground. The meeting went very well and we are very appreciative that they have agreed to put \$25,000 towards the project.

In the coming weeks we hope to be able to share our final plans and some more financial support that will be backing this great project.

Sophie Millington



BLD: 254571

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
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www.onecard.network/flindersmobile

	February	March	April
LAURA 12.45 - 4.15pm	Tuesday 11, 25	Tuesday 11, 25	Tuesday 8, 22
WIRRABARA 10.15 - 11.45am	Thursday 6, 20	Thursday 6, 20	Thursday 3, 17
APPILA 2.30 - 3.30pm			

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

For more information -

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Phone: 8662 2305

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**Flinders
Mobile Library**
Libraries
SA

2024 In Retrospect

As we move into the new year, it's important to take a moment to stop and reflect upon the year previous. To take some time to look back at everything we have accomplished not only as individuals, but as a community. Here are some highlights of Laura and surrounding areas 2024 achievements.

The 2024 annual Laura Fair proved to be as big of a hit as every year previous. Attracting families from all around SA, the two-day event never fails to put on a great show with its magnitude of great stalls and rides, excellent live music, and delicious food. The Fair continues to evolve and expand with many positive changes said to come in 2025.

2024 saw more funds being raised for the construction of the Laura Nature Playground. With the generosity of local families and businesses, the construction of the playground is inching closer and closer. Hopefully 2025 will be just as fruitful as the year previous and will see the Laura Nature Playground begin to come to life.

The end of 2024 marks a year since the Laura Markets began. The markets have quickly become a hit, attracting more people and businesses each weekend that the market is held. Offering a broad range of produce and homemade goods, the markets boast a diverse group of stall holders. A group which seems to be ever expanding.

Last year proved to be a great success across the board. Looking back, Laura saw events flourish, new ideas come to life, and local businesses grow. The community continues to expand with every passing year. With luck, 2025 will be no different and will present the community with another year of great triumphs!

Jackson Fudge



Southern Flinders Health Advisory Council

Annual General Meeting

The Southern Flinders HAC Annual General Meeting was held at the Laura Hospital Meeting Room on Wednesday 30 October 2024.

Nineteen people attended and all positions were filled. Community members include Brian Higgins (Presiding Member), Jenni Cleggett, Lorraine Griffin, (Laura) Bev Harris, Kathy Webb, (Gladstone) Jo Grossman, Shane Kirk, Bronny Perry, (Crystal Brook).

Dr Helen Robertson continues as Medical Representative, Fiona Hockey as Northern Areas Council Representative, Linda Deans as Local Member of Parliament Representative and Amanda Kittel as Staff Representative.

Chairman of the Yorke and Northern Local Health Network Regional Board, John Voumard attended and presented a report detailing issues affecting the Health system.

Laura Hospital Aged Care Upgrade Official Opening

The official opening of the aged care upgrade is planned for Friday 2nd May at 3pm. Members of the community are welcome to attend. Further details will be available in the next edition of the Laura Standard.

SAND & METAL SUPPLIES

**Free Delivery in Laura
or pick up from 11 Bristow St**

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The Laura Emporium

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| # Local arts and Crafts | # Meryle's Café |
| # Gifts and Cookware | # Knives |
| # Jams and Spreads | # Pickles and Sauces |
| # Boiled Lollies | # Antiques |
| # Funny Signs | # Candles and Soaps |
| # Art Gallery | # Shell Display |

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

Buying and selling antiques and household items

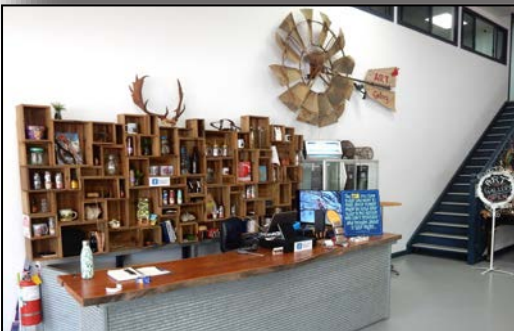
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Weekends 9am to 4.30pm

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Emporium 0473 656 807 or Meryles 0460 648 118



LIONS NEWS



The purpose of Lions clubs is to promote the principles of good citizenship, to take an active interest in the civic, cultural, social, and moral welfare of our communities, and to unite the clubs in the bonds of friendship, good fellowship, and mutual understanding.

In doing so, Lions International has adopted what is referred to as the 7 Pillars Project. These are the 7 main causes that Lions clubs worldwide see as priorities in our world today.

DIABETES -1.5 million Australians, or 5.6% of our population, are living with diabetes; 283 people are diagnosed every day. This disease can lead to serious health issues affecting the heart and blood vessels, eyes, kidneys, nerves, and teeth. Diabetes is the leading cause of heart disease, blindness, kidney failure, and lower limb amputations, and for young people, living with diabetes is challenging, not only physically but also emotionally.

The Lions Australia Diabetes Foundation funded grants totalling \$58,602 for care packs, nursing practitioner training, imaging equipment, and ongoing research projects for the year ending June 2024. Since 1994, the Foundation has provided \$1,123,420 in grants.

In Addition, Lions International provided USD \$60,000 to St Vincents Institute for Imaging Equipment in 2024, which cost over \$265,000.

CHILDHOOD CANCER – Lions Clubs aim to fund research to eradicate childhood cancer once and for all.

Since 1996, Lions Australia has contributed \$12 million to childhood cancer research. The Australian Childhood Cancer Research Foundation (ALCCRF) was officially established in 2009, with the prime focus of increasing childhood cancer survival rates by supporting research efforts not just here in Australia but around the world.

The ALCCRF currently supports eight Universities and Medical Research Institutions in advanced research programmes, details of which are reported on the foundation's website.

Lions International Foundation also contributes to cancer research in Australia with multi-million-dollar support of the Garvan Institute in Sydney

YOUTH—Lions cater for our young people in Clubs called Leos. There are 7,000 Leos clubs worldwide, with 120 Clubs in Australia. Lions Clubs also sponsor Youth of the Year, open to all senior high school students, to encourage and foster leadership skills and public speaking.

Continued on page 13

ENVIRONMENT- Lions Clubs have long championed the environment. With 1.3 million members worldwide, lions have a powerful voice. In 2011, then International President Wing-Kum Tam of Hong Kong challenged Lions Clubs to plant 1 million trees. They responded by planting 15 million across every inhabited continent and have planted many millions more since. Currently, over 3000 projects are carried out by Australian clubs every year. These projects come in many forms, from community clean-ups, tree planting, promoting recycling, and wetland reconstructions. These projects are aimed at improving air, water, and land quality as well as protecting our flora and fauna.

HUNGER—Foodbank, in a report to the government, stated that 15% of Australians experienced food insecurity at least once in the past 12 months. The WHO reports that 10% of the world's population goes hungry every day. Lions provide grants to support school-based feeding programs, support food banks, provide education programs to support healthy living and support improved farming practices in poorer nations around the world. Lions at the club level deliver meals to the elderly and disabled and provide funding and volunteers in soup kitchens and homeless shelters.

HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS – Every day, Lions work to empower clubs, volunteers, and partners to improve the health and well-being of our communities.

Lions provide grants to help people living with disabilities to lead more independent and productive lives.

Co-fund with the Government to secure vaccines for home and abroad, donate to expand nursing homes, hospices, and facilities for the elderly, and provide funding for clean water and improved sanitation in under-developed nations.

DISASTER AID – Australia, the land of fire and flood, has been a net beneficiary of worldwide assistance from Lions Clubs globally.

Wherever disaster presents itself, you will find the footprint of Lions, whether volunteers working tirelessly in clean-ups or funding assistance to those left without. Within hours of the L A fires Lions Clubs responded to calls for money, food, clothing and accommodation help for those affected.

As a relative newcomer to Lions, I do get intense satisfaction knowing that Lions make a difference. However, it is your support, whether by buying donuts at the footy, Lions mints, cakes and puddings at Christmas, or your donations of cash or grain samples, that allows us to do what we do, so it's a big thank you from us at Lions.

Wayne Miller
Treasurer

Artists and their Art Forms

Painters Julie Bottrall and Jackson Fudge.

A family affair – Painters: Julie Bottrall and her grandson Jackson Fudge. Julie is affectionately known as Guggy by her grandchildren. Julie's medium of choice is watercolour paints while Jackson's is acrylics. They are both past recipients of the "Dick Biles Emerging Artist Award". The prize is given to an emerging local artist each year at the Laura Art Show. Julie was awarded her prize in 2019 and Jackson 5 years later in 2024.

Julie returned to creating art after attending a watercolour painting course at the Port Pirie TAFE, after many years of not picking up a brush. She laughs as she recalls the reason why she stopped making her art.....As a child of about seven years she remembers sitting at the kitchen table drawing with her brother Jeff (Morgan) and her mother saying "Jeff's is better than yours." Many decades later, as an adult Julie realised that it was an unfair comparison as she was younger by 3 years!!

Julie describes her process of watercolour painting as water with a little paint added. She then applies the diluted paint to the sheet of paper in sections, often starting at the top of the paper (eg sky). She adds more water to her paint to thin it. Julie explains that it is necessary to paint with the lightest colours of the painting first as watercolour paint is transparent, allowing her to paint darker sections over top without concerns of the colours mixing. The example given here is adding leaves to an area of sky. You will see from her paintings included here that Julie paints a range of images - landscapes and foliage from trees and flowers to buildings and gateposts! Her award-winning painting was of a rose. She is pictured with Dick Biles' daughter Kimberly on page 15.

To prepare for painting, paper is soaked with water (Julie often uses the bath to soak her paper) and stretched onto the backboard and taped in place. It must be dry before starting to paint. Paper is generally available in 3 textures, rough, medium and smooth. Julie found that the paint "bled" on the smooth paper and so no longer uses it.

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Continued from page 14

Julie taught Jackson how to paint with watercolours when he was very young, but he soon graduated to acrylics and is now dabbling in oil painting. Many of Jackson's paintings were on exhibition in the Port Pirie Regional Art Gallery as part of the recent Youth Exhibition. He has previously exhibited his work at the Gladstone Annual Art Exhibition as well as the Laura Art Show.

Jackson described the preparation of a canvas as stretching the canvas fabric over a wooden frame and tightening it into place. He is currently working with acrylics and experimenting with colour and shape plus occasionally layering other medium into his work. You will notice in the photos the use of beads and not so obviously the use of oil pastels and spray paints. When working with acrylics Jackson spoke about starting with what is most distant in the work, before painting closer objects. He explained that acrylics dry like rubber and therefore light colours can be added over dark, unlike watercolours.

Jackson is pictured with his award-winning painting. His first sale was at the 2024 Laura Art Show.



Photo Left: Julies painting overlooking a field north of Laura.

Photo Below: Julie with Kimberly Biles



Photo Left: Jackson with his painting called Telephone in a Flower Field

Continued on page 16

Continued from page 15

Photo Right:
Jackson's painting called,
A Room of
Conversations

Photo below:
Julie's painting of a
castle her daughter visited
in Germany.

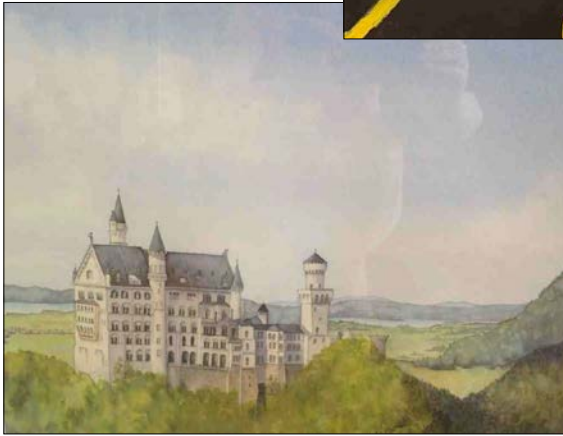
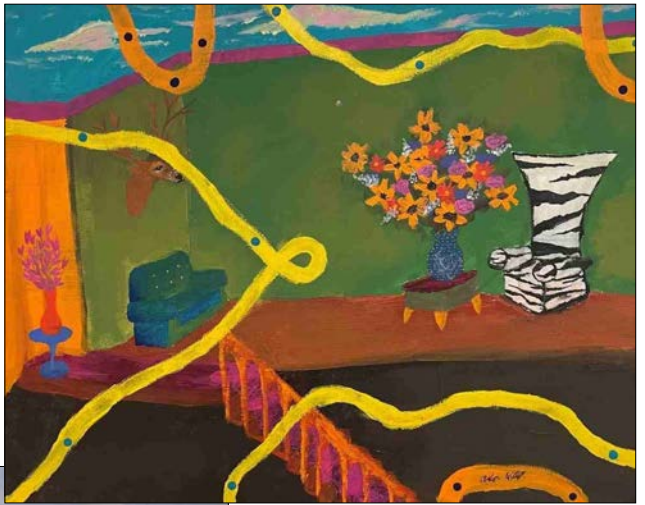


Photo Above: Julie's painting of
Gumtree along the banks of the
Rocky River

Photo Left: Jackson's
Vomito Geometrico



MONTHLY GARDEN ORGANIC COLLECTION CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2025

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

MARCH 2025

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

APRIL 2025

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

MAY 2025

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

JUNE 2025

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

 Caltowie, Jamestown, Spalding

 Georgetown, Gladstone, Culnare, Laura, Stone Hut, Yacka

WHAT GOES IN THE GREEN ORGANICS BIN?



Small
prunings
& cuttings



Lawn
clippings
& weeds



Flowers



Leaves



Twigs
& small
branches



NO
general
waste



NO plastic
bags or
containers



NO painted
or treated
wood



NO large
logs or
stumps



NO plant
pots



NO building
materials, dirt,
rocks or sand



NO garden
tools or
hoses

GREEN ORGANICS BIN TIPS

- Never put green organics in plastic bags or use bin liners.
- Max weight 70kg, so don't overload with wet grass clippings
- Remember, your garden waste is a valuable resource used to make mulch, so do the right thing.



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LAURA COMMUNITY GYM

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Laura Markets

Indoor and Outdoor stalls
Laura Memorial Civic Centre
Open 9am - 1pm

2025 Market Dates:

Sat 1st March

Sat 3rd May

Sat 5th July

Sat 6th Sept

Sat 1st Nov

&

Christmas Market 2025
on Sat 13th Dec

Stallholder /market enquiries:



Nikki: 0410 459560

or Dan: 0434 371116





SOUTHERN FLINDERS NETBALL CLUB

Season 2025
TRAINING

TUESDAY 25TH FEB
LAURA COURTS
6PM

All netballers past and present
A-H grade are encouraged to attend
Apologies to Leah 0437605508

All Welcome

Junior training dates to be announced soon!



Annual Art Exhibition

Entries are invited for the Laura Art Exhibition held annually in conjunction with the Laura Fair. This year will be our 48th annual exhibition. Entry forms for artists will be available at the Laura Information Centre and the Laura Fair website. As in recent years the 'opening' of the exhibition will be a twilight event with doors of the gallery open from 5pm on the Friday of the Laura Fair,

The Junior Art section for students of Gladstone High School and the feeder primary schools is always a popular place for families to visit. Much of the entertainment for children will now be staged on the eastern side of the Courthouse Gallery, so the student art will be in close vicinity.

We especially welcome helpers at the gallery over the weekend – just a stint for an hour or more at the door, welcoming visitors and taking donations for entry isn't very hard, and can be a pleasant respite from the action of the fair outside – or the sun!

Laura Archives

We quietly continue to sort and tidy our expanding collection, and always welcome more items for the archives. Many families have items stashed in cupboards or sheds that may relate to Laura, especially businesses in the past. Calendars and give-a-ways from businesses such as the butchers, bakers, Mr Lehmann's shoe shop, the delis, the garages and the Laura Mill are of significance.

We have recently acquired a tiny notebook about 7x10cms (complete with tiny pencil) (picture on page 23) from the S.A. Import Co which operated in Herbert Street until being destroyed by fire in 1926. The following year Eudunda Farmers

Co-op opened a new store on the site which is now the Laura IGA. The SA Import Co was a Laura business, but this item says Laura and Melrose! The main street was looking pretty smart then as Mr Humphris had erected a new building designed by architect Firmin Jenkins of Port Pirie as a Ford dealership – later known as Laura Motor Garage. (picture on page 23)

Continued on page 23

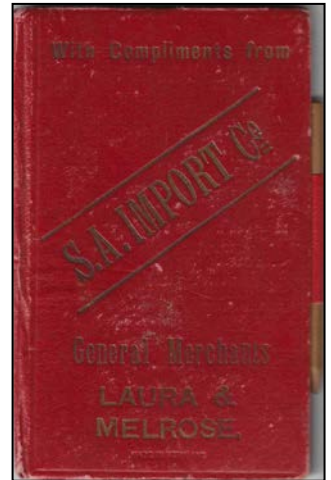
Continued from page 22

We are also endeavouring to collect past publications of the **Rocky River Riter's Group**, as many of the submissions in these booklets dating back to the 1990s relate to aspects of life, or people, of the district. Such items will be interesting resources in years to come when family historians are looking for personal aspects of the lives of their predecessors.

The Courthouse Gallery

Many people think that the Courthouse Gallery sits idle most of the time, which is basically so, but not correct. Groups from the caravan park view the Laura Collection by arrangement, the Adelaide School of Dentistry held a lecture. It's been the venue for Men's Shed preliminary meetings, visiting special interest historical groups, the launch of the biography of artist Jeff Morgan and other functions. Does anyone have any other suggestions for occasional use of the gallery with its lovely ambience – perhaps a Scrabble group?

Greg Slattery, President RRHAS



Thank You to the Laura Community

Descendants of the Heading Family held a reunion in Laura over the weekend 6-8 December. Up to 50 members of the family travelled from all over Australia and booked accommodation throughout the area. The North Laura Hotel was superb, and the Caravan Park well supported. Some were staying with Laura residents and family Patriarch Allen & Carlene Heading. We attended 3 separate catch ups over the weekend which included utilising the camp kitchen at the Laura Caravan Park, lunch at the Little Blessings Brewing and finishing up at the Laura/ Wirrabara clubrooms for a Yiros evening and farewell.

We would like to particularly thank Naomi & Simon from the Caravan Park, Cat & Craig Blesing from the Brewing and Tammy Nettle for assisting our visit to the Clubrooms.

To the whole Laura community that made our visit & stay such a memorable one..THANK YOU.

Most of us even managed to visit the market on Saturday morning and partake in some lovely local produce.

Gary Leverington (Cousin 7 of 20!)





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James Heaslip	0408 635 001
David Medlow Smith	0403 035 231
Lynette Pech	0418 892 131
John Stevens	8663 2303
Jodie Zwar	0457 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 2025 please continue to forward your articles to fit the A5 layout of the Standard 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 14th ** May 23rd ** July 25th ** Sep 19th ** Nov 21st ***

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** Mick Tobin 0499 651 990
- **NAC Fire Prevention Officer** Tim Zander, 8664 1139
- **Mayor 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
- **Councillor John Barberien** 0418 804 416 or john.barberien@nacouncil.sa.gov.au



SH♥P LOCAL

*Remember, shopping locally all year
long keeps our community viable!*

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.

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 April
edition of The Laura Standard is
5pm Friday, March 14th 2025.

New Year



There is often a sense of renewed optimism at the beginning of a new year. 2024 is behind us, 2025 lies before us like a blank page. There have been Christmas and New Year celebrations, holidays and opportunities to catch up with family and friends. Perhaps even time to read the book that's been waiting to be opened.

But for many in the community the sense of anticipation and hope that can accompany the start of a new year is difficult to find. For some the grim realities of the drought are starting to sink in. For others, there is grief at the loss of loved ones. It's not been an easy start to the year for many.

I've been reminded recently of the words of Jesus.

Blessed are the poor in spirit.

Blessed are those who mourn.

It doesn't feel very 'blessed' to be grieving or facing financial hardship. Quite the opposite. But these words of Jesus weren't spoken to mock or rub salt into painful wounds. Rather they were given as words of encouragement. Listen to them in full.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

God offers himself to those who feel destitute and anxious.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

God is with us in our griefs. We are not alone.

The people of Laura know how to stand together. Now more than ever is the time for us to do this. To watch out for each other. To ask the question: *How are you really?* To listen for unspoken cries for help. To be more than merely a community. To be family. Blessed are you.

Pastor Jenny Pryor (0407 999 871)

Laura Baptist Christian Community: House of Hope.