



April 2025 Issue 62

Hello Readers,

Welcome to the April 2025 edition of the Laura Standard. The dry spell is hanging on and it's been our hottest summer for 5 or 6 years but let's hope for a timely break to the season and a prosperous year for our district.

The Laura Fair returns again this year on April 5th and 6th. Let's hope we can have a repeat of the success of recent years where we have enjoyed fantastic weather and saw massive crowds. The LCDTA will again be running a Devonshire Tea stall, but for the first time in many years will not be situated between the Art Gallery and the Archives building. Along with many changes that you will notice this year this area will now be a dedicated children's area, and we will be utilizing the kitchen in the Civic Centre. This has been a fantastic fundraiser for many years and would not be possible without the support of the community, baking scones and volunteering on the weekend. Please join us in the Civic Centre for "Devonshire & More".

During the summer of 2023/24 the LCDTA was made aware that 8 of the 12 units in the North Parklands were not equipped with air conditioning after and an elderly resident collapsed in Meryles Café. We approached Housing SA about this but were unfortunately told that none of the current residents met the governments criteria for the supply of air conditioners. Local MP Geoff Brock was unable to get any further action on this but pledged to put some money toward the project and so, driven by LCDTA member Anthony Lines, quotes were sought as well as further funding by community groups such as the Laura Information Centre and Laura Bowls Club.

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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 LCDTA moved that we would cover any shortfall in funds and on March 4th Nettle Electrical installed 8 air conditioners for us. Many thanks to Koby and Daniel from Nettle Electrical for their work and to everyone involved in this project.

The Rocky River Community Shed held a morning tea and information session at the RSL on the 10th of February that was attended by about 30 interested locals. A big thank you to Frank Bernhardt, while not an attendee, kindly offered the use of shed space the rear of the Laura Emporium to get this project off the ground. The Parafield Men's Shed has also donated a truck load of tools and equipment, and these were collected by Anthony Lines on the 26th of February, thanks again to Anthony for doing this. Although it is only early days both Karen Zwar (also an LCDTA member) and Anthony have done an amazing job pushing this project forward.

The Nature Playground group have been hard at work applying for funding and settling on a final design and there has also been some movement on the North Parklands project. The earthworks have been completed ready for the concrete pads, with thanks to Bradley Alm for doing this, and the old rose bushes have been removed in the Nita Klemm Gardens, with thanks to Marty Gilbert for his time and use of his forklift. Hopefully we can organise a couple of working bees in the near future to lay the concrete for the basketball half court and outdoor table tennis table, and to update the irrigation and replant the rose arbour.

Lastly, if you've driven in to town from the North, South or West in recent weeks you would have noticed the new "Welcome to Laura" signs. This project was driven by LCDTA secretary and Golden North's Rick Willis. Not only do they look fantastic but celebrate Golden North who have been a big part of our town for 102 years.

On behalf of the LCDTA I hope everyone enjoys The Fair and the Easter break and good luck to the Southern Flinders Football and Netball on the upcoming season.

Thanks
Gerald Higgins
Chairman LCDTA

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

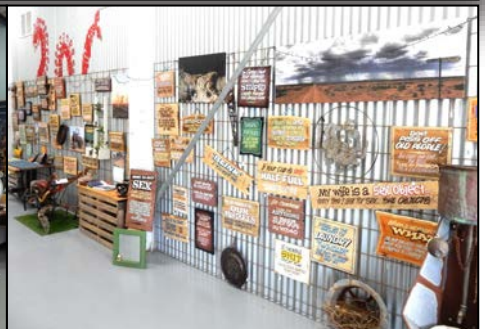
Meryle's Café

Open Weekdays 7am to 4.30pm

Weekends 9am to 4.30pm

Come on in and enjoy a coffee and of course something nice to eat. Choose from their large range of cakes, pastries and cooked food

Emporium 0473 656 807 or Meryles 0460 648 118



Thank YOU



The Laura Nature Playground Committee would like to express their gratitude for the generous donations received over the last four years whilst planning for a playground at the old netball courts within the Laura Sporting Grounds,

"We are incredibly grateful for your support"

We are at the final design stage and would love to share our vision with you all.
'see our plan opposite'

Although we have raised a huge amount as a community and recently received a significant contribution from the Laura Sporting Reserve, we still require a substantial amount to secure this project.

If in anyway you are able to help with this project please reach out to any of our committee members. We will have donation boxes at the Devonshire & More Stall at the Laura Fair, & there is a donation jar at Meryle's Cafe.

Committee members:

Sophie Millington

Jenna Turner

Alyse Edwards

Hannah Pech

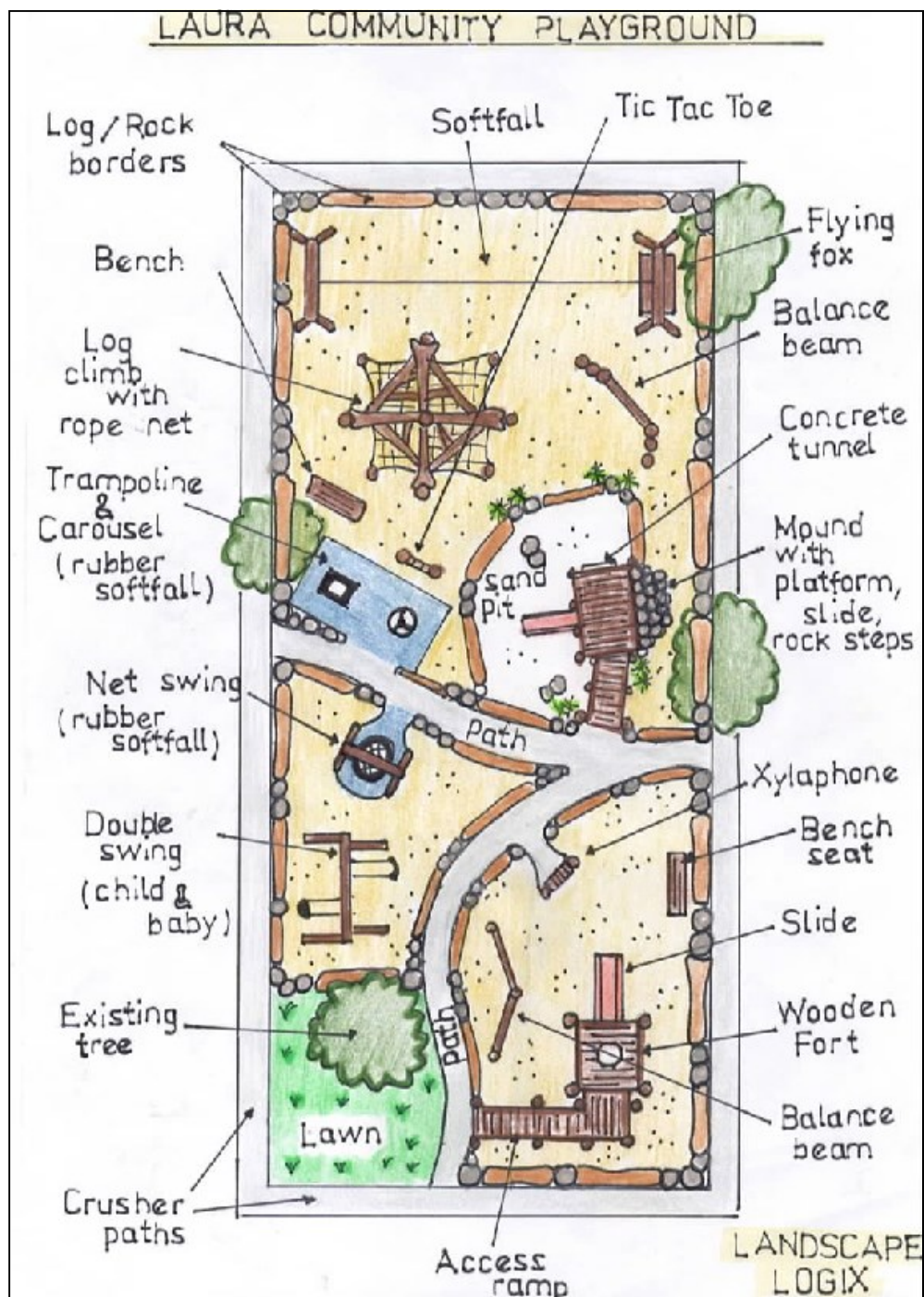
Emily Alm

Celina Lynch



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LAURA COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND



Fire at Wilmington



On Monday, February 3, 2025, a lightning strike ignited a fire at Alligator Gorge, part of the Mount Remarkable National Park. In the first 24 hours, it burnt approx. 800ha (2000 acres) and continued to burn and expand over the next 3 weeks, burning nearly 5500ha in total.

Many CFS brigades from all over the state were called in to help assist DEW (Department of Environment and Water) and the 6 aircraft involved, including CFS members from Laura.

Of the 10 Laura members attending, 141 hours of volunteered time was spent at the fire actively fire fighting and monitoring the edges to prevent further spread of the fire, using the Laura 34 unit and particularly the Bundaleer QRV (Quick Response Vehicle) which is also housed at the Laura station. This does not take into account the hours of local farmers on their own private units that assisted at the fire as well, an important asset to our communities that are quite often the first on the scene at a crop/grass fire, and can often access places that the traditional CFS trucks cannot go.

Many thanks to these members that give up their time as a volunteer, not only to fight fires such as the Wilmington incident, but many other tasks such as helping retrieve patients onto stretchers to load into the ambulance, assisting with traffic diversions at road accidents and removing fallen trees across roads.

If anyone is interested in becoming a member at Laura, please contact Darren Pech, Laura Captain on 0429 705 520 and we can help to get you underway.





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koby.nettle@outlook.com

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www.onecard.network/flindersmobile

	March	April	May
LAURA 12.45 - 4.15pm	Tuesday 11, 25	Tuesday 8, 22	Tuesday 6, 20
WIRABARA 10.15 - 11.45am	Thursday 6, 20	Thursday 3, 17	Thursday 1, 15, 29
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 -

email: flindersmobile.library@gmail.com

Phone: 8662 2305

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Libraries SA

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Call or text Jean Bishop on 0420 647 236

Defibrillator presented to Appila Church



An Automatic defibrillator was presented to members of the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church of Appila, by the Lions Club of Rocky River on the 26th of February 2025 at the Church. The AED was purchased by the club from funds raised from the grain samples tested at the silos, and then donated by the farmers for later sale by the Lions club. The Lions club raises money locally from various community events as well as the grain sales, but all the money from the grain sales is dedicated to be spent in the local community, whereas a proportion of money raised from other sources is used for disaster relief, medical research, training hearing dogs and other projects, both locally, interstate, and internationally.

The defibrillator was presented by club president Don Hucks to Church Committee chairperson, Merrelyn Zanker, who expressed her appreciation, and commented that although everyone hopes the AED will never be used, its presence may save a life in an area quite distant from a local ambulance base. The Lions club is very grateful for the generosity of the local farming community who allow us to profit from their grain samples, and to the staff at Viterra for their help in coordinating the process.



Don Hucks from the Lions Club of Rocky River presents the AED to Merrelyn Zanker, Chairperson of the Committee of the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church of Appila, surrounded by Church Treasurer Liz Jaeschke, Congregation members Emma Zanker, Lyn Zanker, Paul Wurst, Yvonne Wurst, and Greg Wheeler, (Lions Club)

Laura Markets

A community fundraising event

Indoor and Outdoor stalls

Laura Civic Centre, Hughes St

Open 9am - 1pm

2025 Market Dates:

Sat 1st March

Sat 3rd May

Sat 5th July

Sat 6th Sept

Sat 1st Nov

&

Christmas Market Sat 13th Dec

Stallholder /market enquiries:

Nikki: 0410 459560

or Dan: 0434 371116





It's been a busy start to the year and an exciting one! We welcomed 13 preschoolers and 10 reception students who have hit the ground running and settled in nicely. We also introduced Breakfast Club, held on a Monday morning 8:30am-8:50am in the multipurpose room. If you or someone you know would like more information or would like to help contact the school office, we'd love your support.

Over the Christmas break the preschool building had some renovations, the staff and students have enjoyed the new space. If you'd like to see more of our learning check out our Facebook page, Laura Primary School.





CAR BOOT SALE

STONE HUT SOLDIERS MEMORIAL HALL

HORROCKS HIGHWAY

STONE HUT

Sunday

MAY 18TH - 10 -2

Set up from 9:30 until 9:50 am

\$15 for 3 x 3 site behind your car.

\$20 for your table/3 x 3 site, inside the hall.

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Laura Caravan Park Committee Report

Time to give an update on the activities at the caravan park. The volunteers and others have been busy with many upgrades happening around the park. Here's a list of some of the things that have been done.

- ü Upgrade to seats around the camp kitchen
- ü New decking on cabin 1
- ü Extra powered sites adjacent to the Forest Walk
- ü New ablution block with disabled access
- ü Bike repair station with kitchen
- ü New seating made by Bill Walker with frames donated from Frank Bernhardt

There's lots of other bits and pieces that have been done. Always little upgrades happening around the place.

We are very fortunate to have some awesome people who give many hours to the caravan park, making it a beautiful place for people to visit and stay a while.

However, some of them are ready to step aside and have a rest. So, we are looking for keen volunteers to join either the management committee or the team of volunteers. If you have a spare few hours occasionally, and are interested in being a part of a great team, contact Barry Harvie (b.e.harvie@bigpond.com) or Bronwyn Weston (britchie1734@gmail.com). We would love to hear from you.

Thanks again to all the hours that our volunteers give every year.



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FOR MORE INFO
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Economical Motoring Seventy Years Ago

Stevens Motors is the longest established business in Laura, and the Longest running Dodge/Chrysler/Mitsubishi dealership in Australia. The present day Stevens Motors is the continuation of the Dodge dealership which was secured by Hedley Stevens in the early 1930s. The Stevens era started in 1879 when James Stevens established an engineering and blacksmithing business near the North Laura Hotel.

Through the years the Chrysler/Dodge umbrella also included the Standard, Vanguard, Hillman, Triumph and Simca brands, but the strength of the enterprise stems from the Chrysler era which included Plymouths, Desotos, Chrysler Royals and Valiants along with the flagship Dodge Phoenixes.

Just seventy years ago in May 1955 the Waymouth Group of Companies conducted an economy run of Standard Cadet cars with selected dealerships across South Australia. The purpose of the run was to show the family man what could be done with a 10 horsepower car – the Standard Cadet, with a 948cc motor, was a rival to the Ford Prefect, Morris Minor and Austin A40 and later the VW Beetle.

At 10am on Tuesday 24th May 1955 a Standard Cadet car left Laura and thirteen other towns in SA simultaneously with the dealer and a prominent citizen as an observer; in this case the Rev Measday, the local Methodist minister. The goal was to drive with one gallon of petrol until it ran out, and then drive back with another gallon of petrol.

The local newspaper of the era, *The Northern Review* reported that, “*Laura’s car in the recent statewide economy trial really got a tough trial*”, according to the driver Mr JL Stevens of Laura. “*Despite the adverse weather and the bad roads, we averaged 46.75 miles per gallon*” said Mr Stevens.

“*It proved to me just what a 10 horsepower car can do. After my neutral observer, the Rev Jenner, had superintended the filling of two one gallon petrol tins, we started off in the teeth of a very strong north-easterly wind*”.

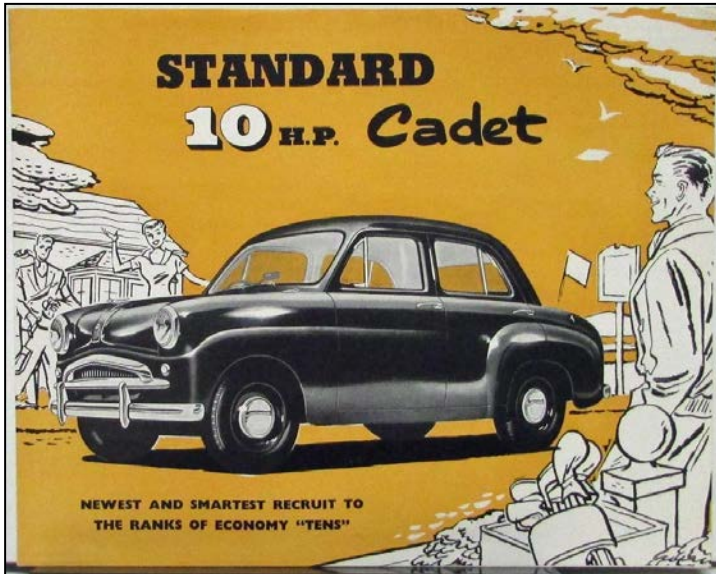
“*We travelled to Stone Hut and Wirrabara, uphill to Murraytown and then over the hills and valleys to Booleroo Centre. We drove around the town to show the folks the Cadet and then drove along the road to Appila. The road from Appila to Jamestown contained hundreds of potholes and wash-aways.*”

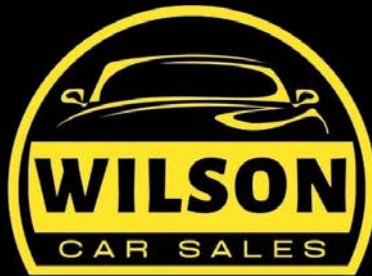
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At times I had to almost stop the car completely. Our first gallon of petrol gave up after climbing the steepest hill between Appila and Jamestown – 44 miles from Laura.

We started our second gallon with the wind blowing gale force and sleety rain making it cold enough for snow. We drove through the storm to Jamestown, then on to Caltowie and Gladstone. With the weather improving, we went on to Hughes Gap and on Crystal Brook road we turned back to Laura...reaching within 10 yards of the old Stone Hut Hotel. Our second gallon gave us 49 ½ miles...giving an average of 46.75 miles to the gallon”.





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MVD: 328 194**

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Exciting Updates from the Rocky River Community Shed!

On Monday, 10th February, we held a community meeting to share our vision for the Rocky River Community Shed, and we are truly amazed by the support and enthusiasm from everyone who joined us! Thank you to all who attended — your ideas, suggestions, and support are invaluable, and we can't wait to work together to make the Shed something truly special.

Based on your feedback, we're thrilled to share that the most popular activities you'd like to see include woodworking, gardening, a coffee and chat group, and metalwork. We are excited to begin organizing these activities and providing a space for everyone to come together and share in these creative and productive endeavours.

The idea for the Community Shed grew from the generous volunteers who already do so much to support the Caravan Park. They wanted to create a space where younger volunteers could step in to assist with projects while building a sense of community. The desire for a shared 'shed' space, where people could work together and keep Laura beautiful, rather than tackling projects alone, is at the heart of this initiative. The LCDTA began discussions with Men's Shed Australia, and the support of our committee members has been instrumental in bringing the RRCS closer to reality.

We're proud to be part of a community with such tremendous heart. The outpouring of support from all of you has been overwhelming, and the Shed is becoming a reality much sooner than we ever expected.

A special thank you goes to Men's Shed Parafield Inc. for their incredibly generous donation of a truckload of tools and machinery! Also, a big thank you to Frank for offering a home for the new Shed. With their help, we can get started much sooner than anticipated. And a special shoutout to Anthony Lines for picking up the equipment — thank you all for your contributions!

Our committee is busy working on incorporating the Community Shed so that we can apply for grants and set up a bank account. The Shed will offer a range of activities and a space for those who are retired, semi-retired, or simply interested in joining. It will be a welcoming place to connect, share skills, and promote positive mental, physical, and community health. Stay up to date on all the exciting developments by joining our Facebook group, 'Rocky River Community Shed,' where we'll share news, activity details, and ways to get involved.

Thank you once again for your support — together, we're creating something truly special for our community!

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Official Opening of the Laura Hospital Aged Care Upgrade

The opening of the Laura Hospital Aged Care Upgrade will take place on Friday, 2 May 2025, commencing at 3.00pm.

The Honourable Geoff Brock MP will officially open the new facility. Light refreshments will be available after the official ceremony. Community members are invited to attend.

A \$2.4M upgrade to the Laura & District Hospital's nursing home wing was recently completed. The upgrade included construction of three new resident rooms, complete with private ensuites. The upgrade also incorporated new ensuites retrofitted within the existing building, providing each resident with a private bathroom, eliminating shared facilities. The upgrade eliminates the need for shared rooms and has meant the return of one acute bed to the hospital's acute services. Other improvements include new flooring, joinery and a fresh coat of paint.

The State Government contributed \$850,000 towards the upgrade, while \$600,000 came from the Federal Government via the Multi-Purpose Services Minor Capital Grant Program. The Southern Flinders Health Advisory Council invested \$970,000, made possible due to a generous bequest from the late Ada Hincks. The Northern Areas Council gifted a small piece of land to support the redevelopment.

Opening of the Exhibition Free Admission for the Opening

You are **invited** to attend the **twilight opening**
at the Court House Gallery, Hughes Street, Laura

Friday 4th April 2025.

Doors open from 5pm. Official Opening at 6.10pm

Come along and meet some of the artists

Hi everyone



It's a crazy time right now. 2 weeks to go!
We are in the final stretch with the preparations
for this year's Fair.

There will be a lot of changes this year which we are super excited about.
We have created a designated Kid'z Zone, with its own stage and
children's entertainment.

We are super excited to announce.

Peter Combe Saturday 2pm

Drumming Monkeys will perform 3 shows per day.
Glow Disco Saturday at 6.30pm followed by movie night 7.30pm
Science shows with Nitro Nat various shows throughout weekend.
Funny Farmers will perform various shows throughout weekend.
Animals Anonymous.

The Lawn area is being transformed into an amazing Food Hub and chill zone

With a resident DJ playing till late Saturday and Sunday.
With 18 amazing food options, and a Decadent Gin Bar!
In addition, we are having a static Vintage Car Display on West Tce.
The Fun Rides and sideshow are back.
A 3rd Stage with acoustic music all weekend.
Flinders Mobile Library, Sporting shooters association and over 100 stalls.

**This is a big call out to anyone with a spare day or two. We still need
volunteers to help us fill the rosters. We have vacancies at the Info
Hub & The Soft Drinks Van.**

Virginia Ferguson

Chairperson
The Laura Fair
0410 414 264

WORKERS NEEDED
FRIDAY SET UP 6.30am
SUNDAY PACK UP 4pm

WE'RE COMING BACK!!

LAURA FAIR WEEKEND

Join us (Lynne @ Fifth St Art and Hannah @ Grit&Grace Designs)
for a day of art, conversation and connection.

With a year's worth of new work to share we are so
looking forward to seeing familiar faces
and meeting new ones too!



GRIT&GRACE DESIGNS

FIFTH ST ART



Saturday 5th April
HOUSE OF HOPE 10AM-3PM

Hope to see you there!

Devonshire and More at the Laura Fair

The Fair is again on the first weekend in April and for us there are some significant changes afoot. LCDTA is moving after 40 years on the lawn.....

this year our stall is in the Civic Centre kitchen and supper room. It seemed like a good time to broaden our offerings beyond scones to include toasted sandwiches, slices and afternoon tea plates. Therefore "Devonshire and More"

We will miss our close proximity to the street and all that goes on there. We will not miss the setting up of the Marquee on Friday plus bringing in the "kitchen" and then packing it all up on Sunday afternoon. We will not miss hand washing the plates and cups.....so many benefits.

With our new title we have invested in advertising flags, similar to what you see here. We want to make sure people can find us. We are hoping that we will be busy all weekend.

Thank you to those who have already donated goods and / or volunteered for us. At the time of writing this our donations sheet in the IGA has been well supported. Your support means much.

We are still looking for scones on both Saturday and Sunday. If you are able to make scones and have yet to let me know please contact Denise Higgins on 0428 222 610

L.C.D.T.A

**Devonshire
& More**



LAURA COMMUNITY GYM

Providing an excellent opportunity for people of all ages to become fit and have fun.

Join the Gym now as a permanent member

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6 months \$150, 12 months \$200

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



Laura Information Centre



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Ph: 8663 2260

For all your local and state information, maps and pamphlets



We also stock: * Golden North Giant Twins
The Laura Information Centre - Celebrating 20 years in 2025!

Are you interested in your community?
Do you like meeting interesting people?
Would you like to be part of a team promoting the town of Laura and the surrounding district?

Working in LIC can involve:

- Providing local residents with ideas for places to take visitors when they are in Laura
- Introducing travellers to the interesting places to see, both around Laura and in the wider area.
- Showing the video and selling the delicious Golden North ice creams
- Promoting and selling the quality souvenirs of Laura and the many and varied local products we stock
- You don't have to know all the answers, '*phone a friend*' is something we all do.

The volunteers give as little or as much time as they are able, the usual shift is for 3 hours, 10 am – 1 pm or 1 pm – 4 pm.
We'd love to have you join us. Call in to LIC and have a look around and talk to the volunteer who is working there, take a list of Committee members and talk to one of them about the training you will receive before you start, or email us on laura.sa.information@gmail.com

Finding a Justice of the Peace:

Jon Hawkins-Clarke	0417 849 441
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:

*** 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



SHOP 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 June
edition of The Laura Standard is
5pm Friday, May 23rd 2025.

EASTER



We country folk are a fairly caring bunch on the whole. If there's any kind of disaster, the entire community pitches in to support and care for each other. This is especially evident during bushfires.

In 2014 I was privileged to serve as a disaster chaplain during the Southern Flinders fires. As a result, I went into Wirrabara forest with the government damages assessment team to talk to people who had been impacted by it. Even though it was only a couple of days after the first fire had gone through, I was amazed to see new growth: green shoots sprouting from burnt out stumps, pink lilies appearing out of blackened ground, and spiders going about their business of restoring their webs in the crevices of burnt bark.

It seemed as if I was witnessing a sort of resurrection I would never have thought possible.

As I talked to people on farms and orchards, their resilience impressed me, but I was aware of the fact that this was only the beginning of their journey through grief and loss and trauma, and that they would need friends along the way who they could rely on to listen, love and encourage them.

I don't know whether I was much help at the time, After all, I hadn't experienced their trauma or loss. But I do know someone who has, and is willing to be there 24/7 for them, or for anyone who is hurting and in grief.

This is the one who *has* been there, done that, and bought the T shirt, so he's far better qualified than me to know what it feels like. He is the one who holds out his scarred hands and says, "Come, Let me walk with you. Let me love you into new life."

Here is resurrection, seen not just in the sign of green growth after bushfires, but in the healing of our broken hearts as we journey with him.

May you find this resurrection promise and healing joy as you celebrate Easter.

Sr. Sandra Sears CSBC