



December 2025/January 2026, Issue 66  
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Hello and welcome to our December edition of The Laura Standard.

Wow—where has the year gone?!

Spring has come and gone, bringing mixed weather and varied reactions from our farming community. The timing of the rain wasn't ideal for many who were in the peak of their hay programs, though we hope it will support crop finishing and contribute to a successful harvest.

As many of you are now aware, the LCDTA has been working behind the scenes researching and exploring a new aged-care model for our town. This concept was introduced to us a few months ago, and we were fortunate to hear from speakers and presenters who shared how this model transformed a small country town in WA. We feel it could greatly benefit Laura and create valuable job opportunities—particularly important as Golden North's departure will leave a gap in our employment sector.

The main goal of this model is to allow our elderly residents to remain in their homes and stay within the community they love. The proven success and economic benefits seen elsewhere are very encouraging.

On Tuesday 11th November, Mable presented two sessions at the Sporting Reserve to explain the model in more detail and highlight how it could support our town. The day was a resounding success, with more than 80 people attending.

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This overwhelming interest confirms our community's need and enthusiasm, and we are moving full steam ahead to bring this model to Laura. *(For more detail, see article on page 9.)*

We would also like to acknowledge two generous local men, Alan and Clive Thompson, who approached the LCDTA to assist with maintaining the tables and chairs in the median strip. The timber seating was in need of some TLC, and the Thompson brothers have been busy replacing timbers to give them a fresh new look.

A big thank-you as well to Michael Stevens from Stevens Motors, who kindly donated his time to re-powdercoat one of the steel table frames that needed refurbishing. We greatly appreciate your skills and community spirit.

Another Laura Market was held on Saturday 1st November and continues to go from strength to strength. There was a fantastic crowd and an impressive number of stallholders once again. Well done to Dan and Nicki Haberfield and the Laura Civic Centre Committee—your hard work is evident, and the event is clearly a great success.

With harvest now underway, we remind everyone that the main street becomes particularly busy with trucks and heavy machinery passing through. Please respect the road rules and speed limits for everyone's safety. It's wonderful to see so many children riding their bikes around town, but it may also be a good time to revisit road-safety reminders.

Plans for our town's Party in the Park are well underway, as is the annual Christmas Light Competition. Please refer to the flyers on page 7 and 7 for more details.

On behalf of the LCDTA, I extend a warm Christmas wish to you all. May this festive season be safe, joyful, and blessed.

Emily Alm, Chairperson, LCDTA



## We've hit the ground running for our final term of 2025!

It's been a busy and exciting start to Term 4, with Sports Day, the R-6 TreeClimb Excursion to Adelaide, transitions to high school, primary school and preschool. Mastermind for our Yr 6 students and an exciting event for 4 yr 5 students, an ABC radio quiz with Ian 'Chook' Harslett, not to mention school swimming lessons. Our students also attended the RSL Remembrance Day Service, proudly representing our school, being respectful during this important community event.

Be sure to mark your calendars for upcoming events:

- **9th December:**  
*School Concert*
- **10th December:**  
*Preschool Graduation*

We'll wrap up the school year on  
**Friday, 12 December.**



**SPORTS DAY- BRISTOW WINNING THE DAY**



**R-6 TREECLIMB EXCURSION**



**TRANSITION TO SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL**



**REMEMBRANCE DAY**



**ABC QUIZ AND YR.6 MASTERMIND**



Rocky River  
Historic and  
Art Society

## Laura Archives

The article about Golden North and the 'Tyranny of Distance' in a recent Laura Standard has resulted in the need to enlarge on other businesses in Laura which have taken advantage or overcome the 'tyranny of distance' in the past – more to follow in future issues of The Laura Standard.

Meanwhile, it's important to know that history in general is not stagnant as new aspects of the past continue to surface, nor is the Laura Archives static.

Within the past few weeks there have been three interesting developments relating to the past, and the early connections to the Bowker family and the Laura Ice Co.

From an auction in Adelaide we purchased a 1938 bank cheque. From the Clare branch of the English Scottish & Australian Bank the Clare Ice & Cold Stores cheque also bore the logo of the Laura Ice & Produce Co Ltd. It is known that the Clare Ice and Cool Store opened in 1927 but this 1938 cheque which bears the signature of Mrs Hazel Bowker instigated further research. The Northern Argus newspaper of Clare had two adverts for this enterprise in Autumn 1938, nothing in 1937 or 1939.

The 1927 operation was established by Mr W Ogilvie of Kingswood, father of W Ogilvie who operated the Clare Motor Garage, agent for Citroen and Nash cars. Frank Knappstein was manager of the new cool store. It's unknown when the Bowker family became involved or for how long, and if indeed it was a continuing enterprise. The lack of later adverts could indicate that WWII may have curtailed the operation. Incidentally, in this earlier time neither business had a telephone number listed, although the Clare Motor Garage did as it also advertised the only breakdown service in the district 'anytime, anywhere'.



From a second-hand shop in Adelaide we purchased a few of the special Golden North 2 litre ice cream tins

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which were produced in the 1980s as a limited run, probably to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of ice cream production. These collectibles may be auctioned sometime, perhaps at the Folk Fair. Keep your ears and eyes open!



Just last week a portrait photo of Percival Bowker and his wife Mary Ellen who married in 1903 was presented to the Laura Archives. Percy born in 1877 was the son of William Bowker, stone mason and dairyman who started sending scalded cream on the train to Broken Hill in the early 1880s.

Percy continued and expanded the enterprise, forming the Laura Ice Co in 1923.

Greg Slattery  
President  
Rocky River Historic & Art Society Inc.

## The Laura Folk Fair

The Laura Folk Fair is a great attraction for our small town with a big heart.

The Folk Fair will be held on 18-19 April 2026, bringing a weekend full of entertainment, food, drinks and a great time to reconnect with old friends with a little encouragement to come to Laura.

We are asking to please consider helping the new look committee.

Your commitment to the community will be strong and time consuming, but the rewards to the community and to yourself would be incredible.

Please talk to one of the Committee members, or call Anthony Lines on 0427 817 463.





Stoney Acre Produce



Laura, South Australia

Local producers of traditional  
Christmas Puddings

To Order Contact

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Website: [www.stoneyacreproduce.com.au](http://www.stoneyacreproduce.com.au)

*Wishing you  
all a safe  
and happy  
Christmas*

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BLD: 254571



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**0457 846 033 LAURA SA**

Archives: 1889 Masthead





**LCDTA**

# Christmas

## LIGHTS COMPETITION

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize: \$300**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: \$200**

**Peoples Choice: \$100**

**Best Business Display \$100**

Prizes kindly donated by the Laura Caravan Park

**Voting closes Thursday 18th at midnight.**

Winners annouced at the  
Party in the Park  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December

To enter and/or vote please follow the  
'Laura Christmas Party in the Park'

Facebook Page -

You'll find all the information needed there

**OR**

Head to the Post Office, Meryle's Cafe or The  
Information Centre

LCDTA

# Christmas

## LIGHTS COMPETITION

### HOW TO ENTER

Decorate your house, take a photo and  
share it on 'Laura Party in the Park' Facebook Page

**OR**

Head on into the Post Office, Meryle's Cafe or The Information  
Centre and fill in one of the forms provided!

by Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December

### TO VOTE (Peoples Choice)

Find your favourite house, then hit the like button!

**OR**

Head on in to the Post Office, Meryle's Cafe or The Information  
Centre and fill in a voting slip!

Voting closes @ midnight

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December

SO GRAB YOUR LIGHTS, PLUG THEM IN, AND LETS MAKE  
LAURA SPARKLES THIS CHRISTMAS!



## "Staying In Place" – Mable in Laura



On Tuesday 11th November Linda and Brad from Mable came to Laura to talk to interested parties about Laura setting itself up with the Staying in Place model. Over 80 people attended the two sessions which was certainly enough for the steering group to now make this happen.

Staying in Place is all about caring for people with Aged Care packages using local people to supply the services. No longer wasted money with the worker charging for travel time from, for instance, Pirie and back to deliver the service. This means the money from your package stays in the Laura district.

This model can be a huge benefit to our community both financially and socially. Like the name says, it keeps people staying in place and our place is Laura.

If you have a few hours or more per week you could perhaps become a service provider. Providers can be health care workers but they can also supply services like cleaning, gardening and support for social outings. These are just a couple of services.

If you have time and would like to earn some money please consider becoming a part of this model. Time can be as little as a couple of hours per week to maybe full time. With your own ABN you can be set up and ready to start basic training in readiness to start work. Mable will do the training and a lot of the paperwork for you and they cover insurances plus income protection.

If you couldn't get to the sessions on the 11th and are currently on a package, think your package needs updating, think you need to be on a package, could be looking to get into that space soon or interested in being a service provider please contact Sue Scarman on 0418 844 935.

SH  P  
LOCAL

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



# Merry Christmas!

## **O'Dea Power & Water - CHRISTMAS CLOSURE**

We will be closed from  
**12:00pm on Wednesday, 24th December 2025,**  
**and re-open at 8:00am on Monday, 5th January 2026.**

*\*Please note that we will be available for emergency jobs  
only throughout this period\**

**O'Dea Power & Water**  
would like to thank all their valued clients  
for the support throughout 2025.  
Wishing everyone a joyful holiday season  
and a bright year ahead.  
We look forward to an even bigger 2026!



**O'Dea**  
POWER + WATER  
**08 8663 2284**



LCDTA PRESENTS

# 2025 Christmas Party in the park

Friday 19th December, 6pm at the Laura Parklands

BBQ, dessert and soft drinks available

Visit from Santa, live music, face painting and  
kids activities

BYO chair and picnic rug



## Volunteering

### **What is volunteering and why is it important?**

In our community we have many, many volunteers across a range of groups, including whole of town organisations and committees. The Northern Areas Council volunteering rate sits at almost 35%. This is significantly higher than the South Australian average. Although Australian Bureau of Statistics figures are not available for individual communities like Laura; we know we are a community that supports each other, growing and prospering from our combined efforts.

The following seemed to best describe volunteering

- **"Time willingly given"**: This emphasises the voluntary and chosen nature of the activity.
- **"For the common good"**: The help is provided for a purpose that benefits others or the community, whether it's through a formal organization or informal support.
- **"Without financial gain"**: Volunteers do not receive payment for their time. While they may be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses like travel, they are not employees and do not expect to be paid for their work.

Some of the town organisations have contributed articles to this Laura Standard. You might find their purpose resonates with you and you may choose to approach that group, looking to volunteer with them in some way. You will also find a personal view from Anthony Lines below. Thanks, Anthony, for your contribution, personalising volunteering.

Denise Higgins

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### **Volunteering in Laura's committees**

My name is Anthony Lines. My involvement on various committees around the Laura district has been rewarding over the years both personally and in business.

Currently, I am Chairman for the Laura Folk Fair committee which I have taken on as a commitment to the future of the Laura Folk Fair for our greater area.

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Sometimes being involved in a committee can be challenging, but at the same time the involvement with like-minded members to find a solution that benefits our community to grow is satisfying.

Working alongside people that you have either known for years or just met is an excellent way to understand other aspects of life around Laura, also to meet and interact with people in our community.

Volunteering around the lovely little town cements the future for the elderly to retire, the fit and able to create a future for the up-and-coming children to thrive and prosper in our district.

If you would like to have a say and create a project you are passionate to see happen the way you would like, join one of our many committees and put your great new ideas forward and drive it until its complete.

Here's to the bright future of Laura.

I'm looking forward to interacting with anyone who has the smallest inclination of wanting our town and district to go forward.

Regards, Anthony

**It's A Good Idea  
To Volunteer!**

## Lions Club of Rocky River News



### **Laura is to have a new Barbeque and Picnic area**

Exciting plans are underway at Rocky River Lions! At a recent meeting the Club agreed to transform the four-acre site on the south side of the West Laura Bridge into a new barbecue and picnic area. The project will be carried out in four stages: first we'll clean up the site and install a barbecue area with seating on the west bank; next we'll beautify the west bank and add more facilities; finally, stages three and four will extend the development to the east bank of the river.

The Club recently purchased a new donut van, leaving the previous van surplus to requirements. The Club learned the Folk Fair was seeking a van and has made them an offer.

The Club has continued its community support by donating to Gladstone High School for its High School Defensive Driving Program and for the school's awards night.

### **Lions Christmas Cakes & Puddings**

Lions Christmas cakes and puddings for 2025 are now available at the Laura and Gladstone post offices and Laura Information Centre. By purchasing these festive items, you support Lions Australia humanitarian programs, including childhood cancer research, diabetes research, childhood mobility initiatives, assistance dogs and disaster relief.

### **Lions Club supports Quad Tandem Bike Ride**

Recently, members of the Rocky River Lions Club were excited to host four amazing ladies who are attempting a World Record by riding a quad tandem push bike from Perth, covering over 4,000 km, and

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finishing in Sydney on October 10<sup>th</sup>, World Mental Health Day.

Their mission was to raise awareness about Australia's suicide rate (the highest in the world) and to raise vital funds for the **Gotcha4Life Foundation**, which delivers mental fitness programs in schools and organisations nationwide.

The ladies rode 130 km from Port Augusta to Crystal Brook, not exhausted, rode on nearly to Snowtown before boarding a support vehicle and returning to Crystal Brook for the night.

The Lions Club was pleased to contribute financially by covering the cost of their cabin accommodation at the Crystal Brook Caravan Park as well as providing their evening meal, a challenge for the caterer, President Don Pritchard, as 10 of the 11 team members were vegetarian. An evening of stories and laughter was enjoyed by all.

A few running repairs to the bike's rear wheel, and they were ready to head off at about 5:00 am the next morning

Robert Hanley





The Chair Mr Ian White and Committee of Laura Events,  
extend our most sincere wishes for  
Christmas and the New year, to our community.



We are working hard to establish our Inaugural  
Laura Trails Bike and Hike Event scheduled for Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>  
September 2026.



We thank all our Volunteers for their unrelenting support and  
look forward to a Bright, Happy, Healthy and Successful 2026.

Laura Events Inc.

[info@lauraevents.au](mailto:info@lauraevents.au)

"A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."  
*ancient proverb*



# Painter Dan

0434 371116

- Wallpaper installations
- Interior & Exterior Painting
- Repairs
- Based in Laura



BLD225910



Diffusers Candles  
Room Sprays  
Hampers Gifts

All made in Laura

Come and see us at the  
Laura Markets  
Laura Civic Centre

Also available to buy at the Laura Information Centre

## Laura Markets

Laura Markets are run by **Dan and Nikki Haberfield**, with the help of a wonderful team of volunteers — a mix of **Laura Civic Centre Committee members, local residents**, and even a few supporters who travel from **as far as Adelaide!**

We hold our markets **on the first Saturday every second month between March and November** with an extra **Christmas market in mid December**.

You'll find a fantastic mix of **indoor and outdoor stalls**, offering **handmade crafts, fresh cakes, hot food, great coffee, a fund raising sausage sizzle, superb hot donuts, and Golden North ice cream** — there's something for everyone!

The Laura Markets are proudly supported by **O'Dea Power and Water** and **Golden North Ice Cream**.

Our **Lucky Squares Raffle** is a crowd favourite and **sells out very quickly** (so get in early!). All the **raffle prizes** are **generously donated by stall holders and local businesses** including **The North Laura Hotel, Little Blessings Brewing, Laura Information Centre, Blackbird Café, Laura IGA, Laura Meat Store, Laura Hair Affair, Northern Machinery, O'dea Power & Water, Laura Pharmacy, and Stevens Motors** — their generosity helps make every market a success.

The market runs from **9am to 1pm**, and all proceeds go towards maintaining the **Laura Memorial Civic Centre**, helping to keep this iconic building in great shape for the community. We also love to support other local community groups including the **Laura Folk Fair**.

We're always happy to **welcome new volunteers** — if you'd like to lend a hand or get involved, come and see us at the market or send us a message!

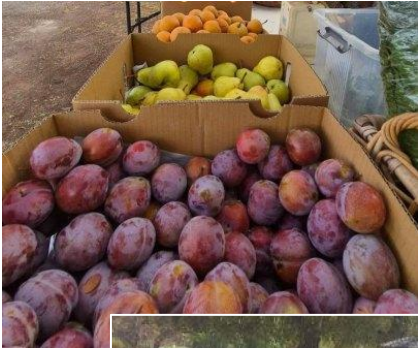
You can **catch our ads on TV during the week of each market**, as we advertise widely to help spread the word and keep our community connected!

For all market enquiries, email [lauramarkets5480@gmail.com](mailto:lauramarkets5480@gmail.com), find us on **Facebook@Laura Markets**, or call **Dan on 0434 371 116**.

Come along, say hello, grab a coffee, and enjoy a great community day out at the **Laura Markets!**

*(check out the photos on the next page)*

Laura Markets



## To all Scratch@ITCH's loyal customers

On behalf of Cheryl and myself, I would like to thank all those who have supported **Scratch@ITCH** over the last nineteen years.

It has reached the point where the shop will need to close. Its success has been, in no large part, due to your support. Please see the shop ad for information on the progressive sales that will take place prior to its closure.

Thank you, and all the best for your future.

Have a lovely, and safe, Christmas and New Year.

Regards

Jonathan Hawkins-Clarke

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**Scratch@ITCH** will be having a **progressive sale** on all items (except Rawleigh's and Moo Goo) each month from January until the shop closes on Friday the twenty-ninth of May 2026.

Scratch@ITCH is open Wednesday through Friday, 10 am to 5 pm, Shop 2, 10 Gladstone Street, Gladstone.



The discount, across the shop, for each month will be on the sign outside the shop.



## Meals on Wheels

Laura & Districts Branch have been delivering meals since 1979, in just over three years we will be 50 years of age, what a great milestone.

What a unique branch we are, three towns – Georgetown, Gladstone and Laura.

One Chair currently revolving, One secretary, Three Client Service Co-ordinators and Three Volunteer Service Co-ordinators. We meet four times a year, a September AGM with an Awardee Presentation Afternoon Tea. Everyone is Welcome.

This year we celebrated the milestone of 12 Volunteers – 5 Five-year; 2 Ten-year and 5 Twenty-year Life Members. Congratulations.

We are so very lucky to have 69 committed Volunteers, 4 of whom are active Inaugural Volunteers - 46 years and still delivering, chatting and checking. We are a group, very focused on the wellbeing of our community Clients, “*Chat and Check*” being crucial. Should anyone of our Clients look to be not quite themselves, we are able to report to the RN on duty of our concern which is then followed up.

### New Aged Care Act – A summary

1<sup>st</sup> November 2025, Australia’s New Aged Care Act came into effect. Meals on Wheels SA Volunteers are now part of the aged care workforce and share responsibility for helping Clients live safely, with dignity and respect.

### What this means for Volunteers

- The Aged Care Code of Conduct applies to everyone, including Volunteers.
- Each Client has a new Statement of Rights that Volunteers must uphold.

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## Meals on Wheels

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- Volunteers will be supported with information and refresher training to understand what this means in everyday service.
- Volunteers are protected under new Whistleblower laws, so can safely raise any concerns.
- Volunteers will continue to play an essential role in supporting nutrition, safety, and social connection.

A copy of the New Aged Care Act has been emailed to Volunteers, if you require a hard copy please contact Secretary – Denise Higgins.

If you want to be a Meals on Wheels Client –

1. Ring My Aged Care and request a “Meal Number”
2. Ring Meals on Wheels 1800 854 453 to apply for meal delivery.

The hospital catering staff cater to recipient's need with a four-weekly menu – a daily choice of 3 main course, along with soup and dessert.

The My Aged Care price is \$11.75 per day.

We consider ourself fortunate to have a good relationship with the Catering staff.

Laura & Districts Branch Committee

21<sup>st</sup> November 2025

## Seen on the 25 November



# Mum & Me Thermomixers

*MERRY Christmas*

Host a Demo to  
**be rewarded**

Be rewarded with a special gift when you host a demo. The reward is a special gift when you host a demo. The reward is a special gift when you host a demo.



**Jacqueline Palmer**  
0439883452  
Thermomix Consultant  
thermomummysoutlook.com.au







**Deb Palmer**  
0408082614  
Thermomix Consultant

## "ALPHA" IS COMING TO LAURA.

Alpha offers a safe space to explore life, purpose and the Christian faith.

Commences 6:00pm on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February with dinner and an introductory video presentation at House of Hope (38 Herbert Street) and continuing weekly throughout school term 1.

Come the first night and then decide if you'd like to come again.

For more information or to register your interest, contact Laura Baptist Pastor Jenny Pryor 0407 999 871





## 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*

### **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

Merry Christmas

## Stone Hut Cottages

4 Star Accommodation

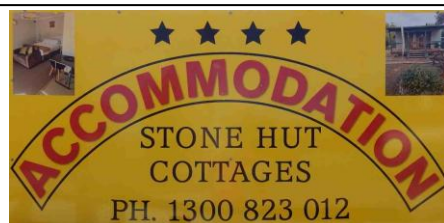
11 fully self contained open plan cabins and units to choose from in a tranquil bush setting.

Inspection more than welcome.

Come and enjoy the walk in our aviary.

55 Horrocks Hwy Stone Hut SA 5480

Free Call 1300 823 012





*Thank you so much for shopping with us  
Chocolate and Jellies really do make the  
difference.*

From the **1<sup>st</sup> January 2026** join the hundreds of our online shoppers Australia wide enjoying David's full range of unique confections.

The Chocolate School will expand to 4 classes weekly, commencing March 2026 to November. Bookings essential, online: [www.cocolaura.com.au](http://www.cocolaura.com.au)

Likewise our Pecktons are an online hit.

Orders: [www.Pecktonsjellies.au](http://www.Pecktonsjellies.au)

Product purchases from the shop will be by appointment only weekdays. Local shoppers can pre-order for collection by calling Sharon 0411 760 236.

We thank the Laura Information Centre and the Laura Pharmacy for their support in stocking our products for the community and visitors.





## Southern Flinders Health Advisory Council AGM



Government of South Australia  
SA Health

The Southern Flinders HAC Annual General Meeting was held at the Crystal Brook Hospital on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2025.

Fifteen people attended and all positions were filled. Community members include Brian Higgins (Presiding Member), Jenni Cleggett, Karin Lynch (Laura), Bev Harris, Kathy Webb (Gladstone), Gabby Combe, Ingrid Combe and Bronny Perry (Crystal Brook).

Dr Helen Robertson continues as Medical Representative, Fiona Hockey from Northern Areas Council is the Local Government Representative and Linda Deans as Local Member of Parliament Representative. Rebecca Hombsch has replaced Amanda Kittel as Staff Representative.

We thank Lorraine Griffin, Shane Kirk and Amanda Kittel plus Jo Grossman who resigned at the August meeting due to family commitments for their support and commitment over the years. We welcome new members including Gabby Combe who joined us in August and Ingrid Combe, Rebecca Hombsch and Karin Lynch who joined SFHAC at the AGM.

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



*Returning to do it again*

## 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**

### Meryle's Café

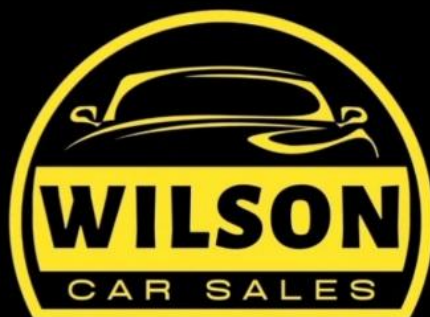
**Open Weekdays 7am to 4.30pm**

**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 Meryle's 0460 648 118**





***At WILSON CAR SALES, we don't just sell any used cars, We offer the best possible range of pre-owned cars in SA.***

***We offer a diverse range of vehicles to cater to various buyers, with cars available to suit all budgets and lifestyles, ensuring we have the ideal car for you.***

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**0416 819 969**

**4 Copinger Rd, Solomontown, 5540  
wilsoncarsales.com.au  
MVD: 328 194**

**Find us on Facebook**



## The Laura Nature Playground

The Laura Nature Playground Committee, a group of dedicated local mothers — Emily Alm, Sophie Millington, and Alyse Edwards.



Following the successful completion of Stage One, which saw the creation of a vibrant and engaging play space for the community, the committee is now focused on Stage Two of the project.

This stage involves replacing the fence along East Terrace to improve safety, accessibility, and the overall appearance of the playground, and installation of extra seating and a shelter, to provide families and visitors with more comfortable spaces to relax and enjoy the playground, ensuring it remains a welcoming and secure environment for children and the wider community.

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## Laura Memorial Civic Centre

### **New Committee for 2025/2026**

At our AGM held in August, the Laura Memorial Civic Centre elected a new committee for the 2025/2026 term.

We're pleased to welcome **Dan Haberfield** as Chair, **Andy Zanker** as Vice Chair, **Deidra Klemm** as Secretary, and **Felicity Vear** as Treasurer. Joining them on the committee are **Danny Palmer, Deb Palmer, Jacqueline Palmer, Monique Eckert, Robbie Klemm, Nikki Haberfield,** and **Leanne Moodie**, along with our Council Representative **Sue Scarman**.

It's a great mix of familiar faces and new energy, and we're all looking forward to another busy year ahead at the Civic Centre.

### **Upgrades Coming Soon**

The committee has some exciting plans in place to make the Civic Centre even more comfortable and functional for our community.

- **New blinds** will soon be installed to help keep the hall cooler and block out the sun during daytime events and presentations.

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### Laura Memorial Civic Centre

- We're also organising a **TV and video conferencing setup**, which will make it easier for local groups and organisations to connect with others — a big step forward for the town!
- The Centre recently got a **fresh coat of paint**, and we've also invested in a **brand-new sound system**. This means anyone hiring the hall can enjoy great sound for their events without needing to bring in extra equipment.
- Next on the list is a **data projector**, so presenters and community groups can make the most of modern technology during their functions.

We're really excited to see all these improvements come together and can't wait for everyone to enjoy the upgraded facilities.

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## Hiring the Civic Centre

If you'd like to hire the **Laura Memorial Civic Centre** for your next event, please email: [civiccentrerequest@gmail.com](mailto:civiccentrerequest@gmail.com)



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## Laura Website Update:

LCDTA is refreshing the Laura website to showcase everything that makes our town worth a visit — great food, local shops, fabulous playgrounds, and friendly faces. It'll be the go-to spot for travellers to see what to do, where to stay, and why Laura's worth the stop.

We have lots of wonderful photos and are still chasing business information. If businesses wish their information to be updated from the current website, please email us. If we don't hear from you with updated photos etc, we will use your old information. Contact: [5480photos@gmail.com](mailto:5480photos@gmail.com)





## Laura Community Caravan Park

The Caravan Park functions with three interdependent groups, - committee, managers and volunteers. As the managers work with a contract; this article will focus on the committee and volunteers.

The committee is a group of volunteers who meet monthly and are responsible for the oversight and improvement of the caravan park. Another of its roles is the selection, guidance and support of the managers. Thirdly it provides sponsorship of organisations within the Laura Community. As a committee within the LCDTA structure it provides monthly reports to the LCDTA.

Another group of volunteers are important to the caravan park. Their working bees keep the park looking amazing. Working bees not only maintain aspects of the park they provide significant infrastructure. Recent work has included the second camp kitchen. Many, many visitors comment on how well the park is kept. Volunteers are a part of this. Key people on the committee to contact if you are interested in volunteering at the caravan park are Barry Harvie, Alan Thomson and Dean Nettle. They call working bees intermittently.



*Looking for Laura caravan park in 2024*

**Laura Community  
Development & Tourism  
Association**

**CHRISTMAS**

**A**

**F**

**F**

**L**

**E**



**Tickets on sale  
in front of the  
Laura IGA from  
Friday 28th  
November**

**Drawn at the  
Park Party  
Friday 19th  
December  
2025**

**Raffle tickets \$3  
Or 4 for \$10  
Or book for \$25**

**CASH PRIZES**

**1st Prize: \$300, 2nd prize: \$150,**

**3rd prize: \$100 , 4th prize : \$50**

## Christmas Day Services

Laura Baptist Christian Community invites you to join us for worship on Christmas Day from 9am – 10am at the House of Hope. This family service will include both traditional readings and carols as well as children's participation.



Laura Lutheran invites you to join us on Christmas eve for carol singing at 7:00PM and a service starting at 7:30PM.



## Mainly Music at Laura Party in the Park



Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December.

Once again Mainly Music will be bringing a segment of storytelling and songs at the park. Whether you're a small child or a grandparent, come and join us at 6.45pm at the Laura Park as we celebrate the Christmas story.



*Lines' line*





Remedial Massage  
Pregnancy Massage  
Dry Needling  
Myofascial Cupping

Book via below website  
[flowrmt.com.au](http://flowrmt.com.au)

Gift Vouchers Available



# We're Looking for Volunteers in Laura!

Do you have spare time and want to make a difference in your community?



CARE IN MOTION



*Apply to volunteer  
as a Driver or Aged  
Care Visitor*



- Drive once a week, fortnight, or month – we're flexible!
- Centrelink-approved volunteering
- Reimbursement policy available

Your community not-for-profit organisation

**1300 132 932**



[www.careinmotion.org.au](http://www.careinmotion.org.au)

## Flinders Mobile Library

[www.flindersmobile.sa.gov.au](http://www.flindersmobile.sa.gov.au)

	December	January	February
<b>LAURA</b> 12.45 - 4.15pm	Tuesday <b>2, 16</b>	Tuesday <b>13, 27</b>	Tuesday <b>10, 24</b>
<b>WIRRABARA</b> 10.15 - 11.45am <b>APPILA</b> 2.30 - 3.30pm	Thursday <b>11</b>	Thursday <b>8, 22</b>	Thursday <b>5, 19</b>

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

The Library is part of the state wide LibrariesSA network and offers access to wide a range of physical and electronic services.

**The Library staff wish everyone a very happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in 2026.**

For more information -

email: [flindersmobile.library@libraries.sa.gov.au](mailto:flindersmobile.library@libraries.sa.gov.au)

Phone: 08 8662 2305



**Join online or on the truck!**

**Borrow books! Read them!**

Then track your reading from **1 December to 31 January**. Every five days that you read and/or every five books that you log is a chance to **WIN!**

Find out more by scanning the QR code or by asking Ruth, Rachel, Louise or Joanne on the Flinders Mobile Library.



**Flinders  
Mobile Library**





## Drought Recovery Program – Uniting SA

*by Natalya Grace-Jones Ph: 0400 868 315*

Hi, my name is Natalya and I've recently come on board with the **Drought Recovery Program at UnitingSA**, rolled out as part of the State Government's \$73.4 Million dollar drought package. I'm here to assist communities across the **Yorke and Northern regions in South Australia**, as people continue to navigate the challenges of drought and rural life.

I come from a background in mental health, running my own businesses, being a carer, and obtaining University qualifications in Human Services – academically, professionally, and personally – and I've also spent time living and working rurally- presently just out of Melrose – so I understand firsthand how tough things can get when the land is dry, the challenges are many, and it's easy to feel like you're carrying it all on your own.

I'm reaching out to let you know about a **free, confidential wellbeing service** that's here to support **anyone impacted by drought-directly or indirectly**. Support is tailored to each person's needs and this can include:

- A listening ear and practical strategies for wellbeing
- Strengthening relationships – at home or in the community
- Connecting individuals with local services and networks
- Support navigating grants, subsidies, and financial counselling
- Navigating health care and other government agencies
- And a whole lot more

While I cover the Yorke and Northern regions, UnitingSA has staff supporting other drought-affected regions including:

Flinders and Upper North – Melissa Ph: 0483 166 769

Riverland, Murray Mallee & Coorong – Anthea Ph: 0447 332 780

Barossa, Hills, and Fleurieu- Kate: 0417 048 958

Our service operates **Monday to Friday, 8.30am–5pm**, with both phone and **face-to-face support available- someone's farm gate, their place of business, their kitchen table, or at the local meeting spot in town.**

# DROUGHT RECOVERY PROGRAM

## WE ARE HERE TO HELP

### What is Drought Mental Health Support?

We offer free and confidential mental health support for people living in drought-affected regions.

Drought is affecting many people in our community and we understand how tough it can be. If you or someone you know is struggling or not feeling quite themselves, we're here to help.

You don't need to be in crisis to reach out. We can support you with things like managing stress, finding a way forward when you feel stuck or simply having someone to talk to. Whether you're looking for a listening ear or practical support, we're here for you and your family.

### Who can access this service and where is this service delivered?

Anyone who is affected by drought in the following regions:

- Barossa Hills Fleurieu
- Riverland Murray Mallee Coorong
- Flinders and Upper North
- Yorke and Northern

### What services are offered?

Our service is flexible, person-centred and built around what matters to you. Support is tailored to your needs, so it can look different for everyone. We can help you to:

- Talk things through and feel more in control
- Strengthen relationships or connect with your local community
- Develop helpful habits and healthy coping strategies
- Navigate the healthcare and other systems
- Access drought related financial counselling and other supports
- Get involved in local community or recreational activities
- Explore options for education, training, employment or volunteer work
- And more

### When is the service available?

Phone or face to face appointments are available from Monday to Friday between 9am to 5pm.

### How can I access the service?

If you would like more information about the program or talk to someone about getting support, please contact us on:

Email [droughtsupport@unitingSA.com.au](mailto:droughtsupport@unitingSA.com.au) or call

Flinders and Upper North	Melissa	0483 166 769
Yorke and Northern	Natalya	0400 868 315
Barossa Hills Fleurieu	Kate	0417 048 958
Riverland Murray Mallee Coorong	Anthea	0447 332 780

If this is a mental health emergency, contact 000 or Mental Health Triage on 13 14 65

UnitingSA acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout South Australia, their spiritual heritage, living culture and our walk together towards reconciliation.

Updated: August 2025



## The Rocky River Community Shed



It is with heartfelt thanks to the Northern Areas Council (NAC) that I begin this article. In October, the NAC voted in support of the Rocky River Community Shed (RRCS) by granting us permission to use the Laura Council Depot as our future home. This decision is more than just access to a building — it highlights the council's recognition of how important it is for people across the Rocky River region to have a shared space to gather, create, learn, and support one another.

A community shed becomes a place where friendships are built, skills are shared, and the wellbeing of our towns grows stronger.

While it will still be some time before we officially move in — with essential upgrades needed to ensure the site is safe, accessible, and suitable for a community workshop — we are thrilled to finally take this step forward. Knowing where our future home will be means we can begin planning layouts, mapping out activity areas, and dreaming up the projects and opportunities that will soon take shape. The excitement is building, and this support from NAC has given us the green light to imagine what the RRCS can become for our whole region.



*Could it look like this? - Ed*

The RRCS is a not-for-profit, community-based incorporated association established to serve and benefit its members and the wider community.

The core purposes of the Rocky River Community Shed are:

1. To provide a welcoming and inclusive space for community connection

RRCS aims to offer a safe and accessible environment where community members can come together to build relationships, exchange skills, share ideas, and learn from each other's experiences. Through collaborative activities and regular engagement, members are encouraged to form meaningful social bonds that strengthen community ties.

*... continued next page*

## Rocky River Community Shed

*... from previous page*

### 2. To support lifelong learning and skill development

RRCS will foster opportunities for members to learn and grow together through workshops, practical projects, discussion groups, mentoring, and other educational initiatives. The goal is to promote personal development, encourage creativity and innovation, and empower individuals with the confidence and knowledge to contribute positively to their communities.

### 3. To enhance individual and collective well-being

The RRCS is committed to creating positive experiences that promote mental, physical, and social health. By facilitating supportive, respectful, and purposeful community interaction, the Association aims to reduce social isolation, encourage healthy lifestyles, and contribute to the overall well-being of its members and the community as a whole.

Shed Days are held every second Monday at 41 Stock Route Road, with a big thank you to the Lines Family for allowing the RRCS to operate from their shed. For more information about the Shed Days contact Peter Smallacombe on 0408 856 026 or Malcolm Pech on 0429 139 353.

The Shed Committee:

Chairperson – Robert Hanley

Secretary – Karen Zwar

Treasurer – Warren Mack

Committee members – Peter Smallacombe, Malcolm Pech,  
Bevan Smith, Anthony Lines

You can contact the Shed Secretary for a membership form by calling 0414 796 410 or emailing to [rockyrivercs@gmail.com](mailto:rockyrivercs@gmail.com).

Karen Zwar, Secretary

# Laura Markets

A community fundraising event

***Indoor and Outdoor stalls***  
**Laura Civic Centre, Hughes St**  
**Open 9am - 1pm**

**Last Market for 2025:**  
**Christmas Market**  
**Sat 13th Dec**



Nikki & Dan would  
like to wish you  
a Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New  
Year.



All enquiries by email:  
**[lauramarkets5480@gmail.com](mailto:lauramarkets5480@gmail.com)**

*Supported by:*







## CHRISTMAS OFFICE CLOSURES

### JAMESTOWN

**Closes** 3pm Tuesday Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Reopens** 9am Monday Jan 5<sup>th</sup>

### GLADSTONE

**Closes** 5pm Friday Dec 19<sup>th</sup>

**Reopens** 9am Monday Jan 5<sup>th</sup>

Open Mon & Wed only during January

### SPALDING

**Closes** 5pm Thursday Dec 18<sup>th</sup>

**Reopens** 9am Thursday Jan 29<sup>th</sup>

Council would like to wish the community  
a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

### **Need 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

## **Northern Areas Council**

- **Council Offices:**

Jamestown: 8664 1139  
1300 664 108 (from landlines only)  
Gladstone: 8662 2018  
After Hours: 0488 999 808



- **Mayor:**

Keith Pluckrose 0428 452 199 [keith.pluckrose@nacouncil.sa.gov.au](mailto:keith.pluckrose@nacouncil.sa.gov.au)

*NAC Media Release 19/11/25: "Council has elected Cr. Keith Pluckrose as Mayor for the remainder of the current term."*

- **Rocky River Ward Councillors:**

Sue Scarman 0418 844 935 [sue.scarman@nacouncil.sa.gov.au](mailto:sue.scarman@nacouncil.sa.gov.au)  
Denise Higgins 0428 222 610 [denise.higgins@nacouncil.sa.gov.au](mailto:denise.higgins@nacouncil.sa.gov.au)  
John Barberien 0418 804 416 [john.barberien@nacouncil.sa.gov.au](mailto:john.barberien@nacouncil.sa.gov.au)

### **Bin Collection Dates**

Red (Laura, Wednesday) Every week

Yellow (Laura, Friday) December 5,19 January 2,16,30 February 13,27

Yellow (Appila Rd, Friday) December 12,26 January 9,23 Feb 6,20

Green (Laura, Thursday) December 18 January 15 February 12

## **Laura Community Development & Tourism Association Inc.**

**PO Box 149, Laura SA 5480**

**[www.laurasa.com.au](http://www.laurasa.com.au)**

Chairperson: Emily Alm 0419 643 099

Secretary: Darren Pech 0429 705 520

Treasurer: Wayne Miller

For enquiries about *The Laura Standard*, contact:

Warren Mack (editor): 0417 131 758

Bronwyn Weston: 0438 635 061



*The Laura Standard* team, together with the LCDTA, thank all contributors for their articles and advertising.

Please forward articles in a Word document, with embedded photos and logo if required as JPG files, to [lcdta5480@gmail.com](mailto:lcdta5480@gmail.com) before: 5.00pm,

**Wednesday January 21**

If you know someone who unfortunately hasn't received a copy of *The Laura Standard*, copies are available from the Laura Information Centre, Meryle's café and Little Blessings Brewing. Copies can also be emailed – contact the Editor.

This edition, and all previous editions, can be viewed and downloaded in colour and printed, at [www.laurasa.com.au/News](http://www.laurasa.com.au/News).

*The Laura Standard* is a community publication. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Association. The Editor reserves the right to edit or refuse articles.

### **Advertising Fees (Note change in rates for 2026)**

Full page (193mm x 127mm): \$50.00

Half page (96mm x 127mm): \$30.00

Third page (63mm x 127mm): \$20.00

As an incentive for supporting *The Laura Standard*, advertisers will receive their sixth advertisement **free**.

## **The WHAT, HOW, and WHY of Christmas**

The year is almost gone, and Christmas will soon be here. So, you may well have at least started your Christmas preparations.

In preparing for the Christmas the first thing you have to work on is the WHAT of Christmas. WHAT (if anything) will you be doing to celebrate Christmas?

Once you have the WHAT, you can then work on the HOW. And when it comes to the HOW, there are so many things to consider. If you are celebrating with others, what time do you need to be where, or do you need to be ready yourself if they are coming to you. Then there is the menu, any presents you may need to have ready and all the other things that come into HOW you intend to spend the day.

The WHAT and HOW of Christmas are all very good, but the most important part of Christmas is the WHY.

WHY go to all this trouble in the first place? WHY is Christmas a time for giving (and receiving) gifts? WHY is Christmas a time when family becomes so important and what is all this about peace and good will anyway?

Well, the WHY of Christmas is all about the birth of a baby, which goes part of the way to explaining why family is so important at Christmas time.

But this little baby is no ordinary child, it was a child whose birth had been foretold thousands of years before it happened. And after thousands of years of waiting. No wonder there was a celebration!

This was no ordinary child. It was God come from heaven for you. God, creator and sustainer of all things, comes down as a little baby born to a young woman and her carpenter husband to be. Entering this world not in a palace, but in a place where animals were kept.

That child is God's gift to you! And he is a better Christmas gift than any others you will receive this or any year!

Why? Because that cute little baby grew up and he did something even more important and amazing. But that is the Easter story!

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