More than just a cup of tea

Recently Laura Baptist Christian Community celebrated its 150th anniversary. On August 18th 1876 the first constitution was signed by earlier pioneers and settlers of Laura, including some of the Walter family whose descendants continue to be part of the church. Within this historic document is an agreement that "God's people should be banded together in visible church fellowship".

Interesting word … "fellowship". We don't hear it very often. It's quite old-fashioned sounding. Maybe even a bit churchy. In my early years it held connotations of a cup of tea, a plate of sandwiches or the ubiquitous tuna mornay. A 'fellowship tea' was an occasion when people were invited to 'bring a plate' - and not an empty one!

But fellowship, while certainly including eating together, is much more than that. In the original language of the Bible it holds the idea of partnership, participation and community. It's the image of people who, while vastly different in age, background and life experience, have something that unifies, that glues them together. That something is an awareness of God's love and a desire to love like He does. It can be summed up as simply as ….

Love God…the one who loves us totally and unconditionally.

Love others… like Jesus does, sacrificially and generously.

That's what we at Laura Baptist have been on about for 150 years.

It's what the global church has been on about for 2,000 years – not always perfectly. But at its core this is why we exist.

Why not call in one Sunday morning and see if all this is true.

We'll even give you a cup of tea…

Pastor Jenny Pryor (0407 999 871)
Laura Baptist Christian Community:
House of Hope.

Baptist Churches SA&NT

The Laura Standard

October/November 2026, Issue 71
Circulation: 606

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Hello and welcome to the October/November edition of *The Laura Standard*.

As spring has set upon us, we've enjoyed a lovely taste of some beautiful spring weather after an incredibly wet and soaking winter. I think you'll all agree that witnessing the Rocky River flow twice recently was an incredible sight to see and brought so much life to our town. There is something truly special about seeing the creek flowing. It brings a sense of vibrancy and excitement to Laura and serves as a wonderful reminder of how incredibly lucky we are to live where we do.

On the 19th of August, we held our LCDTA AGM, with a great turnout on the night. Thank you to everyone who came along and showed their support.

We farewelled four committee members at the meeting and would like to sincerely thank them for their time, dedication and efforts over the years. Your contributions to the LCDTA and our community are greatly appreciated. We also welcomed two newly elected members to the committee, Graeme Giles and Gerald Higgins, and look forward to having them contribute to the work of the association.

The LCDTA committee now consists of:

Chairperson: Emily Alm
Vice Chairperson: Karen Zwar
Secretary: Darren Pech
Vice Secretary: Kelly Burton
Treasurer: Wayne Miller

Council Representative: Sue Scarman
Fundraising Coordinator: Denise Higgins
Assistant Fundraising Coordinator: Sophine Millington
Committee Members: Anthony Lines, Graeme Giles, Gerald Higgins and Joylene Smart

It's also important to note that we have recently had two new subcommittees form under the LCDTA — Southern Flinders Staying in Place and The Friends of the Laura Mill Group.

We are incredibly supportive of both of these subcommittees and the work they are setting out to achieve. It's fantastic to see new ideas, enthusiasm and community members coming together to work on projects that will benefit our town. We look forward to seeing both groups grow and seeing the positive work they achieve for the betterment of Laura and the wider community.

In early September, the last of our interactive signs was installed on the grass near the Archives Building. This was a LCDTA initiative, while also giving a nod to Laura's rich history and our connection to C. J. Dennis. The **Triantiwontigongolope** looks fantastic, and we hope it will provide another interesting spot and photo opportunity for both locals and tourists alike. It's great to see another small project come to life around our town and add to the visitor experience. A big thank you to Darren Pech for getting this project completed. His time and work behind the scenes are very much appreciated.

The results from our recent SWOT survey have now been collated and are detailed further in this edition of *The Laura Standard*.

I'd like to thank everyone in the community who took the time to provide their input and contribute to our SWOT analysis. Your feedback is valuable as we continue to look at opportunities and ways to support the future of Laura. A special thank you to Kelly Burton for the time and effort she put into establishing the survey and collating all the results. Your work is greatly appreciated.

Looking ahead, planning for our **Party in the Park** is already underway. Please mark your calendars for **Friday 18th December**, and we look forward to another great evening bringing the community together.

Regards,
Emily Alm, Chairperson, LCDTA

Laura Community Development & Tourism Association Inc.

PO Box 149, Laura SA 5480
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**.

Close-off date for all articles and advertisements for the next issue:

21 November 2026

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.

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.**

Need a Justice of the Peace?

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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

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
- **Rocky River Ward Councillors:**
  Sue Scarman 0418 844 935 sue.scarman@nacouncil.sa.gov.au
  Denise Higgins 0428 222 610 denise.higgins@nacouncil.sa.gov.au
  John Barberien 0418 804 416 john.barberien@nacouncil.sa.gov.au

Bin Collection Dates

Red (Laura, Wednesdays)	Every week
Yellow (Laura, Fridays)	October 9, 23 Nov 6, 20 Dec 4, 18
Yellow (Appila Rd, Fridays)	October 2, 16, 30 Nov 13, 27 Dec 11, 26
Green (Laura, Thursdays)	October 22 Nov 19 Dec 17

RRHAS Rocky River Historic and Art Society

Tennis Times

Although early records don't exist it seems tennis has been played in Laura since the 1880s. The Laura Tennis Club held centenary celebrations in 1986, coinciding with the SA 150th celebrations.

New asphalt courts were laid on the present site in 1948, but prior to that tennis was played at various locations around the town, starting near the Institute. From the early 1900s to the 1930s there were also two church tennis clubs, the Baptists and Methodists.

Laura was admitted to the Southern Flinders Tennis Association in 1928 and were three time consecutive A Grade Premiers in the 1930s and five times consecutively in the 1960s.



From The Advertiser 23/3/1989. Wayne Lange, Brenton Prior and Brenton Gambling

Laura was always a strong and competitive club and in 1989 was the first club to win all three Senior Premierships in the Southern Flinders Tennis Association when the A Grade notched up its third consecutive title over Gladstone and the B1 and B2 teams both defeated Melrose.

After Covid the club had a hiatus for a couple of years (what didn't!) but made the finals last year with one Senior team and this year anticipates fielding a Senior and Junior team. A promising sign for the future is that about twenty children are enrolled in a Tennis Australia 'Hot Shots' program enabling them to learn about and play tennis. This and other initiatives for rebuilding are positive steps ensuring the revitalization of tennis in Laura.

Best of wishes to the Laura Tennis Club for the 2026/27 season.

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

The
Laura Emporium

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

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 # Knives
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 # Antiques
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 # Shell Display

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Open Weekdays 7am to 4.30pm
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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







Laura Information Centre



Open Daily 10AM to 4PM

Ph: 8663 2260

For all your local and state information, maps and pamphlets

We also stock: *** Golden North Giant Twins**

Spring brings out the wildflowers – travellers heading north, this year to see the spectacular display of Sturt Desert Pea.

This year spring also brought the rain which saw the Rocky stop the traffic in Laura to watch it storm under the bridge and in Stone Hut to watch the rail trail bridge float away.

However, whatever you're doing in this changeable time of year, a visit to the Laura Information Centre should be top of your list – start looking for Christmas presents or tasty treats to go with tea or coffee and so much more.

Arts & Crafts	Aromatics & Candles	Doggy Treats
Books	Baskets	Glassware
Postcards & greeting cards		
Honey	Jams	Chutneys
Dried Fruit	Biscuits	Olive Oil
Hats & Caps	Aprons & tea towels	Bags

The Laura Weather Station

https://bushlinx.au/agbyte/login

User name: Laura_Town.
Password: laura25.



The Laura Standard – Editor's Note

No, this is not a regular feature of The Laura Standard, but there happened to be a page to fill after all articles and advertisements were included. So the Editor got to thinking …

The Laura Standard, which is the official publication of the LCDTA, has always relied on articles from local individuals and organisations, and advertising which covers the costs, and this has worked well, and still does. So thank you to all who contribute.

In addition there are the Reviewers and the Folders and the Laura postie who distributes the finished product to letter boxes and post office boxes and mail bags, all free of charge. And the printers, NAC, Gladstone. Oh, and the Editor!

But concerning the magazine itself, maybe there's something else that could be added as a regular feature, or even one-off, or some change in the content that you think would enhance it, keeping in mind that someone would need to make it happen!

So if you have an idea, send the Editor an email and we'll see what happens: lcdta5480@gmail.com.

And did you know The Laura Standard is available online, in colour here: www.laurasa.com.au/News?

Ed.



What the editor saw on Hancock Road, Tea Tree Gully, recently.

Community Spirit Shines at September Laura Markets

Despite ominous forecasts predicting damaging winds and heavy rainfall, the Laura Markets on 5 September proved to be a wonderful example of community spirit and resilience. In fact, the weather was a delight, with sunshine prevailing throughout the day.

Visitors were rewarded with an enjoyable market experience, showcasing the best of the region's produce, crafts and community connections.



A particular highlight of the day was the visit of Northern Areas Council Mayor, Councillor Keith Pluckrose, who attended the market at the Laura Civic Centre to officially open the new rainwater tank and Blue Light Filtration System. The project represents an important investment in the future of the Laura Civic Centre, improving sustainability and enhancing services available to the community.

The Laura Markets are also grateful for the generous support received from local businesses and community members who donate prizes for the fundraising Lucky Squares raffle. This month's donations were kindly provided by Odea Power and Water, Laura IGA, Laura Meat Store, Laura Pharmacy, Laura Hair Affair, Little Blessings Brewing, the Laura Information Centre, Laura Post Office, Blackbird Café, the North Laura Hotel and Stevens Motors, who generously donated a fuel voucher as a raffle prize. Many of our market stallholders also contribute prizes throughout the year, and their support is greatly appreciated.

The Lucky Squares raffle continues to be one of the most popular features of the market and, once again, was completely sold out by 11am. The ongoing support from locals and visitors alike helps make this important fundraiser a great success each month.

Stevens Motors added something special to the day, with Paul Stevens kindly providing a fabulous brand-new Mitsubishi Ute for display. The impressive vehicle attracted plenty of attention from visitors and showcased the very latest in modern automotive engineering. Stylish and practical, offering exceptional comfort while remaining a true workhorse, the Mitsubishi proved a standout attraction and a real talking point throughout the market.

continued next page …

…from previous page

Visitors to the Laura Markets can always expect a fantastic variety of around 50 stalls, spread throughout the Civic Centre and surrounding grounds. With an ever-changing selection of crafts, collectables, handmade goods, local produce and unique gifts, there is something to interest everyone. You can even get your hair cut while you're there!

The market's fundraising sausage sizzle was once again a popular feature of the day, and you can always rely on the Laura Meat Store to provide the best sausages around. Visitors were also spoilt for choice with fresh hot coffee, delicious hot donuts and mouth-watering wood-fired pizzas cooked fresh to order throughout the morning. These much-loved offerings help create the friendly atmosphere that makes the Laura Markets such a popular community event, and with tables and seating outside, visitors can relax and enjoy the market and all that it has to offer.

Looking ahead, the next Laura Markets will be held on **Saturday, 7th November**, and we are already looking forward to another great community day. Planning is also underway for the special Christmas Market on **Saturday, 12th December**, which promises to be a festive occasion for locals and visitors alike. Market-goers can expect plenty of Christmas spirit, great shopping, delicious food and a very special guest dropping in to say hello to everyone. It is sure to be a highlight of the Laura community calendar.

The Laura Markets are always keen to hear from anyone interested in volunteering on market day and the day before. We are very fortunate to have a devoted band of helpers whose hard work and enthusiasm help the day run as smoothly as possible. New volunteers are always welcome, whether you can spare a few hours on Friday or Saturday.

We are also always interested in hearing from anyone who would like to have a stall at the market. Whether you are a local producer, artisan, collector, community group or small business, we would love to hear from you.

If you would like to volunteer, enquire about a stall, or obtain further information, please contact Nikki and Dan via email at **lauramarkets5480@outlook.com** or call **0434 371 116**. We look forward to welcoming you to a future Laura Market.

Dan, Nikki and the Laura Markets Team.

Drop the Dust Before You Hit the Seal

As harvest approaches, Northern Areas Council is encouraging farmers, truck drivers and contractors to help keep our townships safe and enjoyable by remembering to **Drop the Dust Before You Hit the Seal.**

Thousands of tonnes of grain will be transported across our region during harvest, with many vehicles travelling through local townships and on their way to grain receival sites including Gladstone and Jamestown.

While harvest is a vital part of our local economy, excessive dust entering towns can affect residents, businesses and visitors. Dust can reduce visibility, impact air quality and create additional cleaning and maintenance for homes and shopfronts.



Council is asking all drivers to slow down and take practical steps to minimise dust generation when approaching and travelling through townships.

By dropping the dust before hitting the seal and entering town, drivers can help:

- Protect local residents and businesses.
- Improve road safety for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists.
- Maintain the amenity and appearance of our communities.
- Show respect for the towns that support our agricultural industry.

A cleaner, safer harvest season benefits everyone.

Remember: Drop the Dust Before You Hit the Seal.

… from previous page

Work is now progressing on defining the scope, costs, benefits and delivery requirements for each project. This information will help with comparing the relative merits of each project, including their feasibility and timing of delivery. Each project is unique, with different cost, approval and timing requirements, so it is likely that projects will not be delivered concurrently – in fact it will be easier if the projects are staggered.

When this information is ready there will be an opportunity for the community to review and indicate preferences. The Reference Group will hold a public meeting and run a community survey so that everyone has the opportunity for input.

Community input will help the Reference Group prioritise projects. These will then be recommended to the Council for their endorsement before being presented to the State Treasurer for final approval.

The community meeting and survey will likely be held in October, so keep an eye out for information on this.

Northern Areas Council
Mayor
Keith Pluckrose | 0418 844 935
18 September 2026

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2027 Calendar

Gentle reminder: 2027 Calendar Entries for the 2027 calendar are due by the end of October 2026.

Businesses and organisations may use the form opposite to submit a new entry or renew their existing calendar details.

Alternatively, email Denise on bridenhi@bigpond.com, confirming the exact information to be seen on the calendar.

Please request a tax invoice if one is wanted. If paying when submitting your form, use the bank details on the form. A receipt can be provided.

Any outstanding 2026 calendar accounts are in urgent need of payment.

Denise

Painter Dan

0434 371116

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



BLD225910

Laura/Northern Areas Community Infrastructure Program

It's been quite a while since the Laura community was updated on the State Government's $1M Community Infrastructure Program, which has been secured to support the Laura community following the relocation of Golden North.

The State Government has now finalised the guidelines for the projects eligible for funding under the Program. To be eligible, projects must:

- Support the social and economic development of the town of Laura and the broader Laura community; and/or
- Contribute to the future economic growth of the region or upgrade key community facilities to improve amenities and attract new residents, visitors and business to the town.

The State Government has directed that only the Northern Areas Council is eligible to apply for funds, as the Council will be accountable for the successful delivery of approved projects. The State Treasurer has the final say on approving projects.

With the guidelines now in place, the Laura Futures Reference Group has reviewed all of the project ideas that came through the community process in late 2025 and confirmed those which meet the eligibility criteria. The projects are:

1. Caravan Park Improvements
2. Community Resource Centre/Community Hub
3. Hughes Street Precinct, incorporating Community Shed, Laura Civic Centre and History Centre and historical information.
4. Main Street improvements
5. Recreational Precinct improvements
6. Laura-Gladstone trail

The Reference Group believes the total cost of these projects will exceed the available funding. This means projects will need to be considered, then prioritised and unless additional funding is obtained, not all projects will receive funding from this pool.

continued next page …

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Invitation to begin or continue advertising in and / or Sponsor the Community Calendar in 2027

Do you wish to continue your entry in the community calendar for 2027 Yes / No

Do you wish to have your entry as part of the Laura SA website for NO EXTRA COST Yes / No

If you have a business logo you want added to the website, please forward to bridenhi@bigpond.com

If continuing – are there any changes to the 2026 calendar information Yes / No

For new entries or to advise of changes please use the box below - *maximum* of 6 lines allocated per entry

***Sponsorship** - processed in order of EOI:*

1 Platinum Sponsor – 12 entries – one per month $1000

2 Gold Sponsors – 6 entries – one every 2 months $500 per sponsorship

4 Silver Sponsors – 3 entries – one every 4 months $250 per sponsorship

If interested in sponsoring the Community Calendar contact Denise Higgins on 0428 222 610 - Sponsorship confirmed on payment of tax invoice within 7 days.

*Calendar **Advertising** details / changes here:*
Calendar Top – Max 42 Characters
Monthly Entries – Max 21 Characters

Calendar entries:
*Please return your completed form (and payment) to: LCDTA PO Box 149, Laura SA 5480. **Or** form to bridenhi@bigpond.com for EFT payment*

Name /Business_____ Signature_____ Date_____ Amount Paid OR Invoice Req?:_____

Contact person_____ Phone no._____ Email_____ Website_____

****

Prices for 2027

If using EFT please put your name and CAL in comment section

Cardboard top
2 lines = $40, 3 lines = $50, 4/5 lines = $60 and 6 lines = $75

Monthly entries
One line each month = $2 / month
More than one line = $3 / month with maximum fee of $30

Bank Details ANZ Bank
BSB 015-580
Account No 2812 69451

If you need more information please contact:
Denise Higgins 0428 222 610

Registrations and payments due by 30th October 2026

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Mum & Me Thermomixers
Jacqueline Palmer 0439883452
Debra Palmer 0408082614
Thermomummy@outlook.com.au
Australia Wide Thermomix Consultants
Book a demo with me
thermomix
VORWERK



… from previous page

tables and chairs, Wi-Fi connectivity and a large mobile television, which was funded through a grant secured by LCDTA.

A ceiling mounted projector system with high-quality screening capabilities, ideal for movies and presentations (installation expected in the near future), and a professional grade PA system.

With these improvements, the Laura Memorial Civic Centre is well on its way to realising its potential as a regional convention and community hub right here in Laura.

And that's not all, through funding provided by ATMOS Renewables, with the support of the Northern Areas Council, the committee has been able to replace the ageing and leaking rainwater tank with a new 2,000-litre tank and Blue Light Filtration System, supplied and installed by our friends at O'Dea Power and Water. Visitors to the facility can now enjoy safe filtered drinking water directly from the Centre kitchen. This valuable, upgraded rainwater harvesting system was recently officially opened by the mayor of NAC, Keith Pluckrose.

The committee has also secured funding from the Northern Areas Council to replace the ageing concertina door between the main hall and kitchen. While the old door served the Centre well for many years, its replacement is both timely and necessary.



In another exciting development, the Centre has obtained funding through the Qantas Regional Grants Program which allows for a major upgrade of the outdated solar system. Thank you Qantas! This will see the installation of a substantial battery storage system and new solar array to generate and store significant amounts of renewable energy and help reduce the Centre's ongoing operating costs.

These achievements are the result of a dedicated committee working together with community organisations, funding bodies and volunteers who share a common vision for the future of the Civic Centre. There is still much to do, but the progress made during the past year has been both significant and rewarding.

The committee thanks everyone who has supported the Centre and looks forward to continuing to provide a welcoming, affordable and well-equipped facility for the benefit of the entire community.

Dan Haberfield
Chairperson, Laura Memorial Civic Centre Committee

Laura Memorial Civic Centre Committee Update

The Laura Memorial Civic Centre Committee recently held its Annual General Meeting, providing an opportunity to reflect on another successful year.

Dan Haberfield continues as Chairperson, **Felicity Vear** as Treasurer, and **Deidre Klemm** as Secretary. The committee also welcomes **Danny Palmer** as Vice Chairperson, while **Andrew Zanker** has stepped into the newly created role of **Agricultural Liaison Officer**.

The creation of the Agricultural Liaison Officer position recognises the important role agriculture plays within our district and will help strengthen connections between the Civic Centre and the wider agricultural community.

There have been many improvements made to the Civic Centre over the past 12 months. Not only have several grants enabled much-needed facility upgrades, but the committee has also undertaken a review of governance and fees associated with the Centre.

Several fees previously charged for the use of the facility were considered unnecessary and, in some cases, prohibitive to local community groups and families. As a result, and after listening to community voices, the committee has resolved to make the Civic Centre available free of charge for funerals and life celebrations for the Laura community. Several such events have already taken place in recent months, and it is heartening to know that we can help support fellow community members during what are often difficult and emotional times.

The committee has also agreed to provide the Civic Centre to Laura Primary School free of charge. We look forward to continuing to work alongside the school and supporting future events and activities wherever possible.

Similarly, the Laura Folk Fair had previously been required to pay for the hire of the Civic Centre. As of this year, those charges have been removed, reflecting the committee's commitment to supporting this significant community event and recognising the important contribution it makes to the cultural and social life of the region.

Significant improvements to the facility have been completed in recent months. These include new blinds throughout the Centre, new

continued next page …

150 CJ Dennis at Laura

The 150th anniversary of the birth of CJ Dennis was marked at Laura by Rocky River Historic & Art Society with renditions of his work, the 1919 silent film of *The Sentimental Bloke*, the South Australian release of a new book and the unveiling of a sign of the Triantiwontigongolope, and of course a birthday cake.



The Triantiwontigongolope sign was unveiled by Councillor Sue Scarman representing the Laura Community Development & Tourism Association which had commissioned the sign as well as another of the Ant Explorer which is in the caravan park. These were based on the originals created by the late Dick Biles in the 1980s.

Prior to the unveiling Marius Venz with assistance from some local children presented the verses of the Triantiwontigongolope, one of the poems from *A Book for Kids.* An extensive display of books which include verses from CJ Dennis's Book for Kids showed that Dennis is recognised for far more than the Sentimental Bloke.

Another special tribute to CJ Dennis was the first South Australian release of a new book, *The Anzac Legacy of CJ Dennis.* This contains extracts from Digger Smith and Ginger Mick and importantly a collection of the verses which CJ Dennis wrote for the *Melbourne Herald* each year for Anzac Day and Armistice Day until his death in 1938. This is available from RRHAS and the Laura Information Centre.

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

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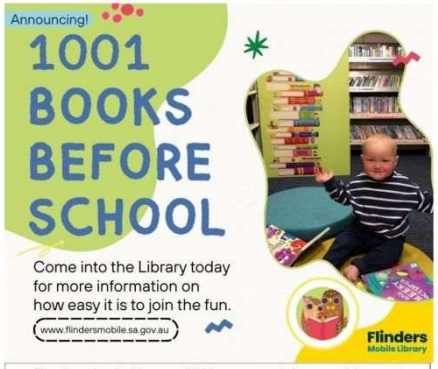
	October	November	December
LAURA 12.45 - 4.15pm	Tuesday **6, 20**	Tuesday **4, 18**	Tuesday **2, 16**
WIRRABARA 10.15 - 11.45am **APPILA** 2.30 - 3.30pm	Thursday **1, 15, 29**	Thursday **12, 26**	Thursday **10**

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.

For more information -
email: flindersmobile.library@libraries.sa.gov.au
Phone: 08 8662 2305

Libraries SA



Reading aloud with your child has proven to be one of the most valuable activities you can do to set your child up for success and encourage them to have a love of reading for life.
What better way to start them out than by reading them 1001 books before they go to school?

If you read for as little as 15 minutes a day (approximately 3 picture books) it will be easy to read 1001 books in a year. Reading every day is a great habit to get into and it gives you a chance to sit down for a little while too!

After every 100 books, visit the Library to receive a special sticker for your reading record. A reward will be given at each milestone: 100, 200, 400, 600, 800, and 1001 books too.

Southern Flinders Staying in Place

Staying in Place Southern Flinders

Do you need help with the My Aged Care system?

Are you on a package and not receiving the services promised?

Would you like to join the local model which employs local people?

Contact: Leanne 0434 680 840 E: info@sfsip@gmail.com

THE COMMITTEE TOOLKIT: GOVERNANCE MADE PRACTICAL

Workshop Dates and Locations

JAMESTOWN
17 SEPTEMBER, 6-9PM
AT THE SIR HUBERT WILKINS BUILDING

GLADSTONE
12 OCTOBER, 6-9PM
AT THE GLADSTONE MEMORIAL HALL

SPALDING
26 OCTOBER, 6-9PM
AT THE SPALDING DISTRICT HALL

LAURA
19 OCTOBER, 6-9PM
LAURA MEMORIAL CIVIC CENTRE

Build the skills to help your community group thrive
Good governance is more than paperwork. It's what helps community groups make better decisions, reduce volunteer burnout, secure funding, and remain sustainable for years to come.

Join a practical workshop covering:
Committee roles and responsibilities
Risk management and compliance
Running effective meetings
Succession planning
Real solutions to common committee challenges

Facilitated by Dr Kristine Peters. A governance specialist who has worked with hundreds of community groups across Australia.

RSVP to Council by calling 08 8664 1139 or email admin@nacouncil.sa.gov.au

NORTHERN AREAS COUNCIL

KPPM STRATEGY

Laura COMMUNITY CARAVAN PARK

Hello Laura!

A Warm Welcome From The New Caravan Park Managers

Change is in the air at the Laura Community Caravan park. We wanted to take a moment to introduce ourselves to this wonderful community! We are thrilled to step into our roles as your new park managers and to become active members to the historic and friendly town of Laura.

From the moment we arrived we have been blown away by the incredible local spirit, the beautiful Southern Flinders Ranges backdrop and the legendary hospitality that makes this region so special. Our primary goal is to maintain the peaceful pristine environment that our guests love whilst finding new ways to support and connect with local businesses.

Up and Coming Goals for the Park

We have big, exciting plans on the horizon to enhance the park experience for both travellers and locals alike:

Infrastructure

We now have three ensuite sites that we will be opening on the 3rd of November for those who love the camping experience but with the luxury of having your own private bathroom.

Greener Grounds

We will be focusing on landscaping and expanding, shady green spaces to keep the park looking its absolute best with the help of the volunteers.

Strengthening Community Ties

We want to encourage our visitors to wander into town, visit the local cafes, shops, IGA, hotel and the Brewery and experience what Laura has to offer.

continued next page …

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

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

ACCOMMODATION
STONE HUT COTTAGES
PH. 1300 823 012

LAURA COMMUNITY GYM

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.**

Find us on: facebook

LAURA & DISTRICTS BRANCH of PROBUS

Chairperson: *Jan Barberien*
Secretary: *Lorraine Griffin*
Treasurer: *Gloria Blight*

Notice of Next Meeting

Tuesday 13th October 2026, North Laura Hotel
10:00am: Meet & greet
10:30am: General Meeting
11:00am: Guest Speaker
12 noon: Lunch

Guest Speaker: Author - **John Murray** APM retired Police Officer. Assistant Commissioner with the South Australia Police; Deputy Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police; Associate Professor with Charles Sturt University; and advisor to the Hong Kong Police. John is a veteran detective and prosecutor, he has a unique insight into policing, the legal profession and the criminal justice system.

RSVP: Lorraine Griffin 0418 441 913 or
Jan Barberien 0448 777 607



… from previous page

The New BBQ Booking System

To kick off our park improvements we have created and launched a new booking system for our community BBQ hire! If you have an event coming up, this system will prevent booking overlaps and ensure everyone can use it efficiently. We expect people to keep it clean and to return it how you found it. If you would like to book the BBQ, give us a call or come in and see us.

The Caravan Park has won an award!!!



The Laura Community Caravan Park has won a silver award for highest rated park in South Australia for 2026. Presented by SA Parks for the most outstanding reviews, we hope to make this a legacy and continue the good work!

We would love to meet you all! Please feel free to pop your head into the office and say g'day, share your favourite local tips or just have a chat or even get involved if you love gardening and join our wonderful volunteer team.

Cheers,

Em & T
Managers, Laura Community Caravan Park

[Congratulations Emily and Tiernan. Well done. Ed.]



Laura & Districts Meals on Wheels (SA) Branch

Georgetown Gladstone Laura Stone Hut Wirrabara

Following the Annual General Meeting 19th August 2026
Volunteers elected to the Committee for 2026/2027

Chairperson: Revolving Chair
Secretary: Denise Higgins
Treasurer: Catherine Combe
Co-ordinator Support: Jan Barberien
Volunteer Co-ordinator: Heidi McCallum
Client Co-ordinator: Rebecca Lines
Gladstone Rep: Barb Page
Gladstone Rep: Jenny Loveridge
Georgetown Rep: Delma Noonan
Georgetown Rep: Delma Noonan
Wirrabara Rep: Ros Reichstein
Wirrabara Rep: Jane Evans
Awards & Presentations: Julie Nettle
Committee Members: Pamela Wastell, Rhonda Pech, Helen Tuppen, Julie Bottrall and Christine Lines
Branch Delegates – Voting Members: Denise Higgins & Jan Barberien

Congratulations to the new Committee.

The Wirrabara community have joined the Laura & Districts Meals on Wheels Branch. Welcome to the Wirrabara Volunteer Team.

(12 Volunteers in a week. Amazing. Well done)

Gladstone Pool – Shade Sail Opening

The official opening of the Shade Sail and The Gathering of the Life Members of the Gladstone Swimming Pool (West Tce) will be held on Sunday 29th November, starting at 12 noon. Free entry and free sausage sizzle will be available for everyone and the pool will be open.

For more information, contact Heather Smallacombe 0447138731.

Friends of the Laura Mill

by Roger Kleinig



Since November 2025 the Friends of Laura Mill [FOLM] have sought to progress the purchase and preservation of the old flour Mill and its land for the future benefit of our community. To this end members of the committee have:

- Made contact with the owners of the site, AgTrade Hay Australia, and expressed interest in purchasing the land
- Worked on terms of reference
- Consulted with NA Council regarding zoning changes
- Met with a professional planning, engineering and consulting firms to assist us with restoration ideas and estimates, including roofing, stonemasonry, surveying, engineering and site cleanup
- Obtained preliminary seed funding grant of $500 from the Laura Racing Club

Initially FOLM sought to achieve a two fold vision of (1) preserving the heritage structures of the Laura Mill and (2) using the land where the large Hay shed is for future development of housing for future retirees. In more recent times, information from our local councillors indicated that changing the land use zoning for retirement housing would be quite difficult and expensive at this stage of the 10 year review cycle that Council uses in its zoning decisions. These zoning determinations will apparently come up for review in less than five years and it appears that it would be much more financially viable to attempt to have the land change from employment/ industrial zone at that review (in five years time) rather than potentially waste quite a bit of money and effort in attempting to progress it sooner.

Currently we are waiting for further progress from the owners re selling the heritage buildings. Once those details have been determined, we will move into a public fundraising mode. I would like to thank LCDTA for their support and our committee members for their work so far; Greg Slattery, Malcolm Pech, Barry Feldhoff, Sue Scarman, Alan Thompson, John Barbarien, Karin Lynch, Graham Pech, Anthony Lines, Phil Kleinig.

Laura Nature Playground Report by Sophie Millington



In February 2026, we were incredibly grateful to receive $50,000 through the PIRSA Thriving Communities Grant. This will allow us to continue developing the area surrounding the Laura Nature Playground, including building a suitable shelter. The shelter will provide a much-needed space for families and community members to sit, gather and enjoy the playground, while also providing some protection from the weather.

Also in February we were incredibly grateful to be awarded the Active Citizenship Award by Northern Areas Council. Following this recognition, we were invited to attend the 2026 Citizen of the Year Awards at Government House, where we received a Commendation Award. Both awards were a wonderful acknowledgement of the work that has gone into the Laura Nature Playground project.

These recognitions would not have been possible without the wonderful support of our Laura community and of Variety, the Children's Charity, whose generous contribution helped us get this project off the ground.

Working bees in April and May were well supported, giving the playground much needed maintenance and general tidy-up.

In June we celebrated Clive Fordham's incredible 50 years of volunteer service in the SA Ambulance. The evening was a great success, raising $700 towards the project. We thank everyone who donated supplies and volunteered their time on the night.

And thanks to the Northern Areas Council which has provided ongoing work in helping with parking and drainage.

As we approach the final stages of the project, we are incredibly proud of what has been achieved. We sincerely thank everyone who has contributed along the way.

Although there is a significant amount of work ahead, we look forward to continuing to work together to see this project through to completion and creating a space that our community can enjoy for many years to come.

Hon Geoff Brock MP
Independent Member for Stuart

If you have any state:

- CONCERNS
- SUGGESTIONS
- ISSUES

I would love to hear from you!

08 8633 1210
stuart@parliament.sa.gov.au
www.geoffbrock.com.au



Serving the Community of Stuart

25 August 2026 – Rocky River







At Wirrabara

LCDTA SWOT Survey by Kelly Burton

As reported in the last edition of *The Laura Standard*, residents were invited to provide feedback through a community survey to identify our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT).

Responses have now been received and have highlighted several points for consideration.

In relation to threats, responses showed concerns around the age profile of current volunteers and the need to encourage younger people to become involved. Concerns were raised about possible trust issues within the community, competing committees, pressure on funding, the challenge of maintaining events, limited resources, and the importance of staying relevant so that people know who LCDTA is, what it does, and how it supports the community.

In response to this last point the work of different LCDTA sub-committees will be included in future editions of *The Laura Standard*, beginning in this issue with The Laura Nature Playground (Page 20) and Friends of the Laura Mill (Page 21).

Under weaknesses, community feedback pointed to the presentation and use of shop fronts within the town, the need for a stronger social media presence, and a lack of understanding among some about what LCDTA stands for and does. Some asked how they could become involved as one-off volunteers, highlighting a need for more flexible volunteering options.

The survey also identified opportunities for the future, including the development of a sensory garden or community sitting space under the trees, an informal meet-and-greet with the committee combined with a sausage sizzle, and kid-friendly volunteering opportunities.

These responses will help shape a clearer picture of community expectations and priorities. They reinforce the importance of strong communication, broadening volunteer pathways, involving younger people and families, and ensuring that LCDTA is still visible, accessible and connected to the needs of the community.

The survey confirmed that community members care deeply about Laura's future. The feedback will help with planning and help guide how LCDTA can continue to support local initiatives, strengthen community connections, and respond to emerging challenges.

LCDTA thanks everyone who took the time to contribute feedback.



