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STATE GOVERNMENT LODGES COOBER PEDY OPAL FIELDS ILUA

An Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) over the Coober Pedy Precious Stones Field has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal and is now operative.

The agreement, which was signed by the Mineral Resources and Energy Minister Tom Koutsantonis and the Deputy Premier and Attorney-General John Rau, has been fully endorsed and signed by the Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara people, who hold native title rights over the Precious Stones Field.

Executive Director of Mineral Resources at the Department of State Development Dr Ted Tyne said the agreement provided certainty for opal mining operations in Coober Pedy and meant it was business as usual for opal miners.

"Opal miners who hold current permits or tenements, and those applying for new ones, can choose to sign up to the ILUA at no cost. Once they have signed up to the agreement, they can carry out their opal mining operations in most parts of the Precious Stones Field," Mr Tyne explained.

The agreement identifies areas (i.e. 'Area B') of heritage importance to the Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara people, and ensures that those areas cannot be disturbed without negotiating directly with the Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara Aboriginal Corporation (AMYAC) and an agreement being reached under Part 7 of the Opal Mining Act 1995.

'Area B' stretches all the way along the Stuart Range and is a continuous linear area defined by a line 100 metres back from the top edge of escarpment. Where there is no escarpment, 'Area B' is designated as 100 metres back from where the gradient starts to level out as if there were an escarpment present. 'Area B' also includes:

- 50 metres either side of all minor creeks;
- 200 metres from the treeline of all major creeks, namely, Yellow Bullock Creek, Cotton Bush
- Creek, Longs Creek, Eight Mile Creek, Sixteen Mile Creek and Thunderstorm Creek ;
- 200 metres radius from the edge of all Claypans, Swamps and Lakes, including salt lakes;
- All of the Unworked area of John Deere field; and
- The mostly "unworked hill" at or near Hans Peak.

According to the NNTT ILUA extract, 'Area B' is land and waters which have been identified as culturally sensitive for the Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara People and therefore opal mining is no longer permitted in these areas.

The only entities that could have opposed the registration of the ILUA are those that were a party to it. The parties to the ILUA are:

- The Attorney-General of South Australia (currently Mr John Rau);
- The Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara Aboriginal Corporation (AMYAC); and
- The Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy (currently Mr Tom Koutsantonis)



Pictured during a tour of the Coober Pedy Opal Fields are Governor of South Australia His Excellency The Honourable Hieu Van Le AO accompanied by Cr Ian Crombie (also AMYAC) and Mayor Stephen Staines

The Miners Association at that time believed that there was a division in the Council prior to 2015 where some Councillors supported opal mining and some didn't.

"We basically had to go it alone," said John Dunstan, Vice President of the Coober Pedy Opal Miners Association. "We are all volunteers at the Miners Association and we are not-for-profit, so we have bugger-all money. If we got a lawyer to give us advice then the association's funds would have disappeared and the result probably wouldn't be any better than what we have today. We reckon that it's a pretty good deal for opal mining and the Antakirinja. We negotiated the best deal we could," said John.

Since the election last November the new Council has shown strong support for the opal industry including $4,000 sponsorship to purchase brigher LED lights for the booths at the annual gem trade show.

The Mayor of Coober Pedy, Mr Stephen Staines stated, "Council was not consulted in regards to this ILUA however Council's jurisdiction does not extend into the opal fields so the Government did not have any legal obligation to talk with us about it. However, considering opal mining is so important to our community's history and identity, it does surprise me that the State Government chose not to consult the Local Government of the area in regards to this matter," advised the Mayor of Coober Pedy, Mr Stephen Staines.

Mr Ian Crombie, AMYAC Board Member living in Coober Pedy told the Coober Pedy Regional Times, "After many years of negotiations, the Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara people are pleased that we have reached an ILUA for the opal fields."

"We gave a bit and the opal miners gave a bit and the result is a new era of certainty for opal mining in Coober Pedy and that makes many Anangu happy. Opal mining, especially noodling, is a big part of Anangu's recent history in the Coober Pedy area. Browns Folly, Larkins Folly, the Lennon Field... all of these fields were named after indigenous opal miners who discovered new fields," said Mr. Crombie.

The State Government's views on the Opal Fields ILUA are decidedly upbeat.

Executive Director of Mineral Resources, Mr Ted Tyne said, " The co-operation and goodwill of all parties in entering into this agreement is to be commended and will signal a new era in opal mining in and around Coober Pedy," said Work is also underway to resolve other issues in the town of Coober Pedy following the determination of native title in 2011."

"Progress of the Coober Pedy Township ILUA has accelerated and Council is currently negotiating with the State," said Mayor Staines, "the lack of consultation with Council on the Opal Fields ILUA does concern me and I trust the State Government will negotiate with us in good faith on the Township ILUA," the Mayor said guardedly.

The Deputy Premier and Attorney-General confirmed the commitment of his office to continuing to work with the Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara native title holders and the District Council of Coober Pedy to resolve land access and tenure issues, and to finalise negotiations for a further Indigenous Land Use Agreement over the township of Coober Pedy.

South Australia Nuclear Fuel Chain Royal Commission Community Consultation at Coober Pedy
See Pages 3 and 8

District Council of Coober Pedy information page returns
See Pages 4 and 5

South Australia's Governor General visits Coober Pedy
See Page 9

Coober Pedy REGIONAL TIMES

Editor - Margaret Mackay

PO Box 275 Coober Pedy SA 5723

Ph: (08) 8672 5920

Email: cptimes@ozemail.com.au

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- ☐ Thursday 04 June 2015
- ☐ Thursday 18 June 2015
- ☐ Thursday 02 July 2015
- ☐ Thursday 16 July 2015

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7 DAYS WEATHER Mild - chance of showers

Coober Pedy	Wed May 20	Thu May 21	Fri May 22	Sat May 23	Sun May 24	Mon May 25	Tue May 26
Summary	Cloudy	Sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Possible shower	Possible shower	Cloudy
Maximum	18°C	17°C	17°C	18°C	18°C	19°C	21°C
Minimum	11°C	6°C	4°C	5°C	8°C	10°C	13°C
Chance of Rain	20%	5%	10%	40%	50%	40%	60%
Likely Amount	< 1mm	< 1mm	< 1mm	< 1mm	< 1mm	< 1mm	< 1mm
UV Index	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate			
Frost Risk	Nil	Nil	Slight	Slight	Nil	Nil	Nil

	9am	3pm	9am	3pm	9am	3pm	9am	3pm	9am	3pm	9am	3pm	9am	3pm
Wind Speed	23km/h	26km/h	22km/h	21km/h	20km/h	15km/h	20km/h	19km/h	20km/h	17km/h	21km/h	16km/h	18km/h	14km/h
Wind Direction	SSW	SSW	SSE	SE	ESE	E	ENE	NE	NE	NE	N	NNE	NNE	NNW
Relative Humidity	75%	43%	65%	31%	64%	32%	56%	32%	57%	40%	61%	44%	61%	47%

How to send articles to CPRT

The Coober Pedy Regional Times - "Your Outback Communities Newspaper", became a FREE Newspaper in 2006, increasing its distribution to 4,500 hard copies + digital online download, promoting news, events and distributing advertising to our regional towns. The CPRT is a small business and receives no external funding.

A feature of the newspaper's long history is that it maintains its prominence in the region as a voice for the people; a regular form of communicating opinions for those in remote areas who may otherwise be overlooked or underestimated.

Letters to Editor should be sent by email where possible and be relevent to the community.

1.) Aim for a 300 word story in plain text, if you are sending a News Article after an event.
2. If seeking an Editorial - "Advertorial" or "Special Feature", please enquire about the cost first.
3.) Advertisers may be entitled to editorials
4.) Sponsorship for material from clubs or community programs is by arrangement
5.) Names and Captions must accompany photos + DO NOT REDUCE PHOTOS
6.) DO NOT attach photos to MICROSOFT WORD documents.
7.) Letters to Editor need to be signed and also may be edited.
8) WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY is the LATEST material can be accepted. Discretion may be used by editor under varying circumstances.
9.) Deadline dates are on the LHS of this page (check b4 sending)

SUBMISSIONS not received by Friday, prior to printing are generally unlikely to appear

- Coober Pedy -

an underground town, built on the back of opal mining

333 days sunshine

☐ Coober Pedy is Australia's real 'Down Under', famous for its fabulous opals and bizarre subterranean homes. For generations, miners have dug into the white and orange rock to extract the valuable, sparkling stone. The tunnels and chambers were converted into undergrounds homes in order to escape from the desert heat.

☐ Coober Pedy 'evolved' as the result of a massive post war Opal Rush where hardy pioneers developed a make or break precious gem industry in the desert terrain.



Opal miners at work in Coober Pedy

☐ See the spacious UNDERGROUND SERBIAN CHURCH with it's magnificent stained glass windows and carvings.

☐ Visitors can stay overnight and experience underground life as the locals do!

☐ Enjoy LAWN BOWLS, TENNIS and TABLE TENNIS in the friendly atmosphere of the United Club Sporting Centre.

☐ Spend a day on the most challenging GOLF COURSE in the world.

☐ During Easter Coober Pedy holds its annual OPAL FESTIVAL & GEM TRADE SHOW

☐ Arrive at COOBER PEDY on the famous GHAN TRAIN

☐ Visit the OPAL FIELDS - you'll believe you're on Mars. Join tours to local mines to see how they work and get the chance to noodle (fossick) for your own opal

☐ Take a tour to the natural landscapes outside the town (see film locations like Mad Max: Beyond Thunderdome and Red Planet) including the PAINTED DESERT, the colourful BREAKAWAYS and the MOON PLAIN

☐ Join the MAIL RUN out of Coober Pedy to deliver outback mail! Take a leisurely flight over the spectacular LAKE EYRE

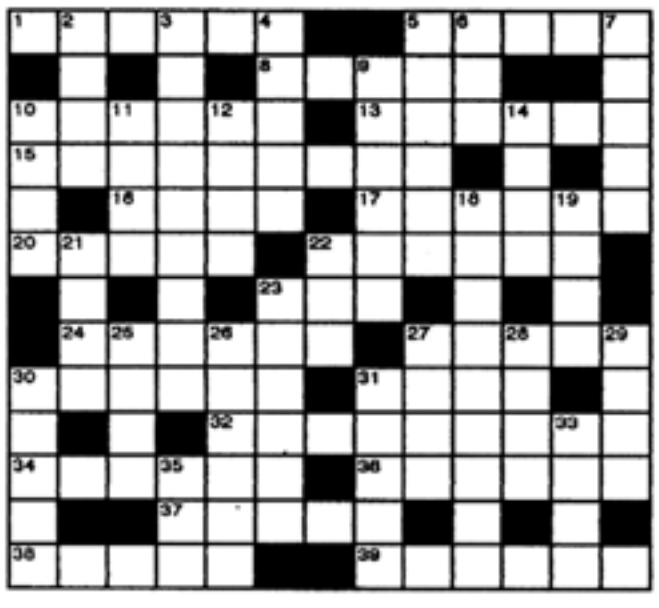
Be part of the last frontier mining town and its living history 100 years on. For more information on the Opal Capital of the World, go to: www.cooberpedy.net

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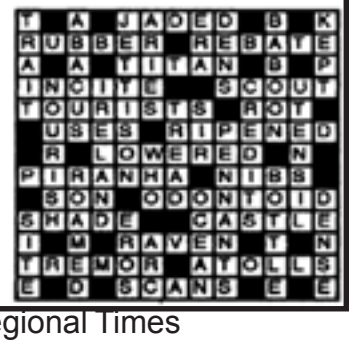
NO. 119

ACROSS
1. Bracelet
5. Mark of omission
8. Pertaining to voice
10. Suffer from hunger
13. Fish-eating animals
15. End
16. Place where money is produced
17. Stupor
20. Middle (law)
22. Suppurate
23. Road surface
24. Glossy fabric
27. Wading bird
30. English river
31. Young horse
32. Print in red
34. Hawker
36. Meal course
37. Passive
38. Vaulted
39. Placid

DOWN
2. Prefix ; before
3. Sprout
4. Incident
5. Purveys
6. High (mus.)
7. Flavour
9. Split-pin
10. Slender support
11. Limbs
12. Climbing plant
14. Sea eagle
18. Allured
19. Measure of herrings
21. Leisure
22. Cooling device
23. Condition of occupancy
25. Eager
26. Roving
27. Fabricate
28. Pertaining to wings
29. Duelling sword
30. Flower part
31. Wears away
33. Biblical quotation
35. Facial part



SOLUTION NO. 118



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South Australia Nuclear Fuel Chain Royal Commission Community Consultation Coober Pedy 14 May 2015

Due to space issues - this is a precised transcript

KEVIN SCARCE: My name's Kevin I have also here members of my team - Greg Ward, Wes Taylor, Mary - . About three months ago the governmnet decided that they wanted an inquiry into the nuclear fuel cycle, so they decided on a Royal Commission. I have the Terms of Reference..I am responsible to investigate this. My job is to answer the four questions in the Terms of reference. By the end of this process I will deliver a Report to government, by 6th May 2016.

The reasons for this Royal Commission are:
1. It's an independent inquiry
2. The second reason for a Royal Commission is that it is evidence-based. There is a lot of feeling in the community, about the nuclear fuel cycle. It is important to unearth the facts and also to examine the risks, - so that we have a basis for progress. We can think of this as an opportunity for the future.
3. Thirdly - the purpose to unearth facts. Royal Commissions are a trusted venue for unearthing facts.
First I'll talk about what we mean by the nuclear fuel cycle, and what we are attempting to do in this year's long examination of the nuclear fuel cycle. I'll talk about the processes of that cycle.Then about how you can help. I'll talk about the process we are going to use to engage the community. The nuclear fuel cycle entails the mining and processing of uranium, manufacturing of nuclear fuel, and power generation, and storage of wastes - the costs and the risks -

Why South Australia? Australia has 30% of the world's uranium supply, 80% of that is in South Australia. So there's a comparative advantage for South Australia in terms of uranium mining.

The first Term of Reference; does it make sense to expand our exploration and mining of uranium?

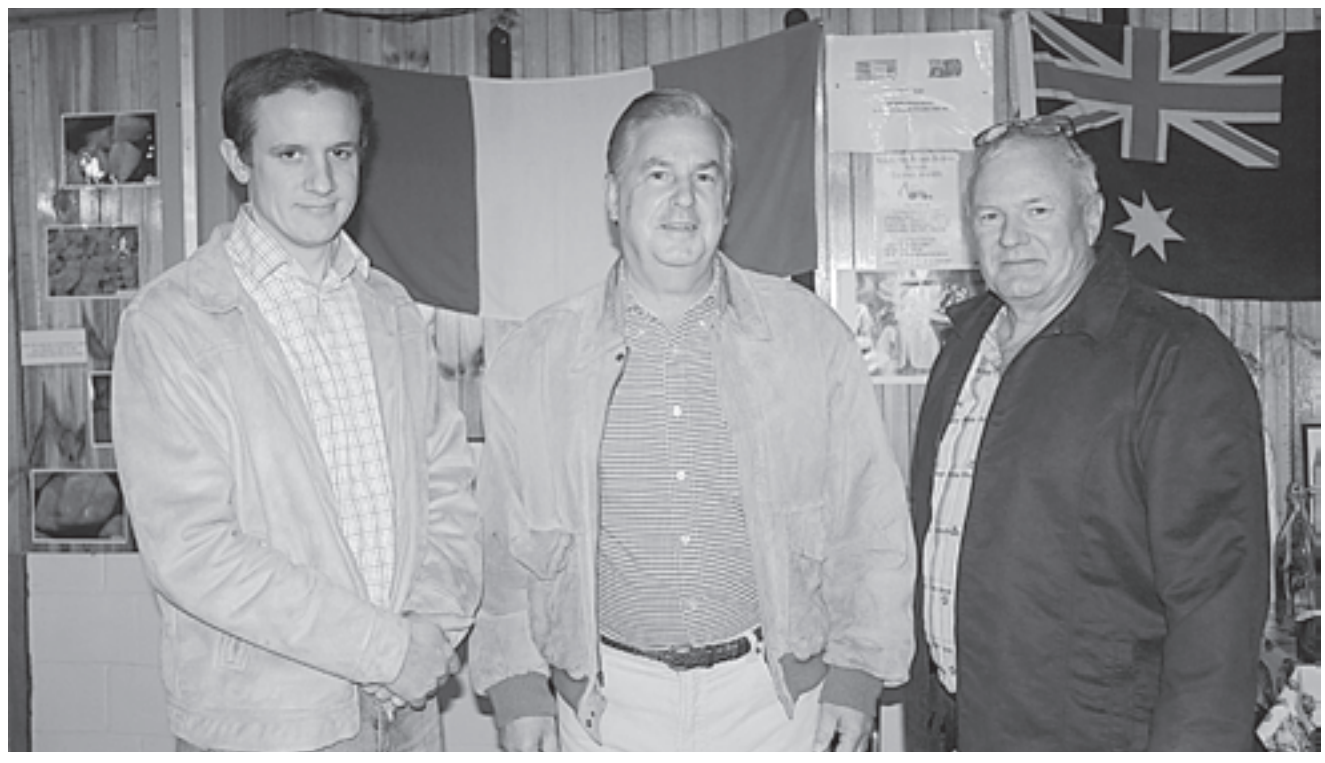
We will look at the world demand for uranium - the opportunities, the costs and benefits to the community, the economy and the environment.

We are also interested in thorium. Thorium purportedly has advantages over uranium. It doesn't create the same wastes, doesn't enable nuclear explosions such as what happened at Fukushima, it's not useful for nuclear weapons. It is a potential opportunity for the future. Part of our Term Of Reference is to look for the opportunities for thorium in this State. But this is only at the potential stage. We are yet to see a thorium nuclear reactor.

The second Term of Reference. What are the opportunities to value add?

We look at the opportunities and costs for communities, the environment and the economy. We as a group don't have enough evidence to form a view. I can see benefits, risks, costs - we need to have the data to prove it one way or the other. We have to gather the data, develop our recommendations, and present our recommendations in our report.

The second Term of Reference - can we add value to our existing uranium industry? That will mean substantial infrastructure. I will show the required infrastructure.



Mayor of Coober Pedy Stephen Staines with Kevin Scarce and President of Coober Pedy Miner's Association Paul Reynolds at the South Australia Nuclear Fuel Chain Royal Commission Community Consultation Coober Pedy 14 May 2015

The third Term of Reference. Power Generation. This is the most complex part of the cycle. for us. Does it make economic sense? Can renewables provide us with that baseload of electricity for the future? We have t think of providing the electricity that we need now - and in 10-20 years' time. It would take 20 years if we go ahead with nuclear power generation. What is the effect of continuing to use coal power to provide baseload power in the future?

The fourth Term of Reference. Management and storage of wastes. Wastes come in a lot of categories. Some of you have had treatment with radioisotopes. Medical wastes are - gloves, nuclear equipment - low level wastes - the lowest category. At the other end of the scale is the spent fuel from nuclear power generation., that will remain active for thousands and thousands of years. But - with progress - we see 3rd Generation reactors - much more efficient in use of fuel, and soon 4th Generation ones might generate much less wastes. . Fast neutron reactors utilise almost all of the nuclear fuel. This is a promise yet to be delivered.
How would you store that waste? What measures needed to protect the environment? The nuclear reprocessing process finishes the cycle. The first part of the cycle - at Beverley and other mines, where they get uranium out of the ground - we look to see where there's an opportunity to expand that in the future - expand use of yellowcake (shows slide) When we enrich uranium, we take it up from useful fuel of only 1% to 3% useful. Reprocessing takes it up to a higher percentage.

Demonstrating the process - from mining to reprocessing - we look for the opportunity to expand mining in the future, Value adding is the in the overseas infrastructure that increases the energy availability from uranium hexafluoride - converting it to small pellets. 3 or 4 of these pellets would power a house for several years. The pellets are encased into zirconium in stainless steel rods and inserted into the reactor. They are replaced every 3-4 years. They might then go to waste, or reprocessing will re-use these rods. With some modern technologies the fuel rods don't need to be taken out of the reactor - but this technology is yet to be developed.

Nuclear wastes (shows slides) Two methods. Wet storage for two years until the rods have cooled. Intermediate dry storage in concrete and copper cylinders - kept there until the final stage. None of these processes are conducted in Australia.

Question here female: What about Lucas Heights?
SCARCE: (shows slide) Lucas Heights produces 15-20% of the world's medical isotopes. The current reactor has been operating for 3-4 years. Before that there was a reactor for 50 years.Lucas Heights has had reactors for 50 - 60 years Lucas Heights is in an outer Souther suburb of Sydney.
(Slide) This is the sort of infrastructure required to reprocess. It is capital intensive. It takes uranium and re-enriches it.
(Slide) Above ground storage in concrete containers is doted around South Australia.-l ow level and intermediate storage above ground.
(Slide) In Finland there is deep down storage - 500 metres underground, will store wastes for thousands of years. There are many methods, The Australian method is to encapsulate wastes in crystalline rock. It must be in geologically stable areas, requiring specific geological conditions. This is a process of understanding, that we need to look at carefully.

....continued on page 8

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Coober Pedy REGIONAL TIMES

Volunteers: Backbone of our Society and our Community

It was National Volunteer Week from the 11th to the 17th May. Volunteers are not only the backbone of our community but also the backbone of our great nation.

Volunteers contribute $200 billion to the Australian economy annuallywhich equates to 10.5% of the Australian economy in GDP terms. The rate of volunteering by young people in Australia increased from 16% in 1995 to27.1% in 2010 nationally. The number of volunteers in Australia has doubled from 1995 (3.2 million) to 2010 (6.1 million).



During Volunteer Week, Mrs. Lan Le, wife of the South Australian Governor presented caps to St Vinnie's volunteers in Coober Pedy

Volunteering is more common amongst those in regional communities with a 38% participation rate as opposed to 32% participation rate in capital cities. Of all the volunteers who commenced volunteering in the last 10 years, 35% started volunteering because someone asked them for help.

Of the 600,000 not-for-profit, incorporated bodies in Australia only 10% have paid staff so 90% of them owe their existence to the selflessness of their volunteers. Our very own Coober Pedy Drive-In Inc. is an example of a labour intensive facility operated entirely by volunteers for nearly 15 years.

The operation of our community cinema includes tasks such as producing and distributing posters, ordering films, receiving films, loading films onto the projector, operating the projector, posting films back to distributors, attending committee meetings, recording and distributing minutes of meetings, producing policies and procedures, training new projectionists, responding to correspondence, liaising with outside parties wishing to utilise the facility, promotion and marketing, maintain the website, gate-keeping, banking funds, paying bills and preparing financial statements.

In the past, the committee also operated the canteen which doubled the number of volunteer hours needed to provide the service to our community.

It is estimated that, since its re-opening in 2001, the Coober Pedy Drive-In committee members have volunteered over 20,000 hours for our community. In monetary terms, this conservatively equates to around $407,000. The volunteers have contributed more into the facility for our community than the local, state and federal government combined at $362,000!

The Coober Pedy Drive-In is one of over 20 different, not-for-profit, community based, volunteer organisations in Coober Pedy. So whenever you see a volunteer how about saying "thank you". It will mean the world to them!

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF COOBER PEDY

Coober Pedy Now Boasts the Best Airstrip in the Outback

Coober Pedy's airstrip is now arguably one of the best in the Outback.

Our sealed airstrip was 18m wide however international regulations stipulate a 30m wide sealed strip for the SAAB 340B, the aircraft that Regional Express Airlines (REX) currently uses to service Coober Pedy 6 days per week.

Despite the fact that REX had been operating flawlessly on the existing strip since 2007, the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) changed the national regulations to comply with international regulations.Coober Pedy was one of the few airports in Australia that were affected by the change. The scheduled services provided by REX were under serious threat, with REX set to stop operations in November 2014 if a suitable solution could not be found.

Luckily for Coober Pedy, the South Australian Government provided $1.3 million for the widening project to be completed.

"On behalf of Council and our community, I sincerely thank the South Australian Government for their funding and swift action on this matter," Mayor Staines advised.

"We are a geographically isolated community and our air-link to Adelaide reduces the sense of isolation. Many of us may not use it often but it is comforting to know that we can if we want or need to. It is also of vital importance to our community from a business, tourism and medical perspective," he said.

The recently completed works, funded by the South Australian Government and managed by the District Council of Coober Pedy, have secured commercial flights into Coober Pedy.

The durability and sustainability of the Coober Pedy airstrip has been ensured with the recent application of a polymer modified emulsion (PME) seal.



A recent flyover by the RAAF's Roulettes aircraft inadvertently captured the spectacular contrast of the new strip and the surrounding landscape.

"My sincere thank you to Minister Stephen Mulligan, Minister Geoff Brock and our local member, Mr Eddie Hughes and Regional Express Airlines for your support in securing the future of our air-services," Mayor Staines continued.

"A special thank must also go to my predecessor, Steve Baines, for your incredible efforts and commitment to ensure that this vital service for our community was not lost," Mayor Staines concluded.

GREAT BREAKAWAY'S MARATHON REPORT

Saturday the 16th May saw the first running of the Great Breakaways Marathon. An event put on by the community, for the community to encourage runners, cyclist and walkers from not only Coober Pedy but across the country to participate.

This is the first year that the Great Breakaways Bolt has changed to the Great Breakaways Marathon & from many accounts it was the right move to make. Runners came from different parts of SA and even interstate to participate. For anyone who had doubts - this event is still very much a locally driven fundraising event in which all can participant. The Tourism & Events Committee have decided for the funds raised from the 2015 event to go towards 'outside shades' that Outside School Hours Care are looking to purchase. We don't know exactly how much has been raised as there may still be extra donations. The amount raised will be announced in the coming weeks.

The highlight of the event was the community bazaar which ensured that both locals and visitors could relax after the event and talk about the experiences they had on the unique course.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all of the volunteers, who gave their time for this event, it could not have happened without you. Thanks to past organizers of this event who have helped shaped it into what it is today.



Bolt participants walk through spectacular terrain



Cr. Ian Crombie at the starting point



SAPOL participants on the road

We would also like to thank all the businesses that have helped make this event possible, not just this year but every year.

To all the participants of the event, thank you for your support in making this such an enjoyable community event Certificates will be posted out in the next couple of weeks.

A special mention goes to David Mitchell who ran the Marathon and won the "Best Dressed" award. David was also raising money for Parkinson's Disease research.

See page 12 for results

Council Appoints New CEO

Council is pleased to announce that it has appointed Mr Trent Rusby as the new CEO. Mr Rusby comes from a background in Small Business, State Government and Local Government. He is currently working as the Director of Transport Safety Regulation within the Department of Planning Transport & Infrastructure (DPTI). He was also a Councillor with the Alexandrina Council for 8 years up until November 2014.

Mr Rusby was appointed via an external recruitment process. Council established a recruitment panel consisting of Mayor Staines, Cr Berry and Cr Provatidis. Council then engaged a private company that specialises in CEO recruitment to assist Council in the process. The professional advisor guided the committee throughout the process. The final decision to employ Mr Rusby was a decision of all the Councillors.

"The reason recruitment of CEOs are done in this fashion is to remove the possibility of any bias or accusation of bias," explained Mayor Staines. "It ensures the recruitment process maintains a high level of integrity and the best applicant for the job gets the job."

All Councillors are looking forward to working in partnership to move Coober Pedy forward. Coober Pedy has many challenges and opportunities ahead of us and we look forward to Mr Rusby's arrival.

"We have largely been a ship without a captain since the sudden departure of our previous CEO six months ago," explained Mayor Staines. "This placed a fair degree of strain on Council as a whole and I thank Damien Clark for temporarily stepping into the role of Acting CEO. All of us here at Council look forward to welcoming Trent into our community," concluded Mayor Staines.

Win for Coober Pedy Pensioners



Mayor Stephen Staines

The Local Government Association's (LGA) campaign, to protect South Australia's pensioners from bill shock, had a winning outcome on 14th May with the State Government announcing it would cover pensioner concessions on Council rates.

Last year, after the axing of Federal funding to the State, the SA Treasurer, Tom Koutsantonis agreed to fund the shortfall for 12 months

.In the case of the District Council of Coober Pedy, the funding for pensioner concessions received from the State Government is currently a total of $37,591.25 p.a. At present 197 of our ratepayers receive these concessions. The percentage increase to our Council rates required to cover the cost of providing the pensioner concession would have been 3.1% in the 2015/16 FY. However on 16th December 2014, the District Council of Coober Pedy passed a motion to participate in the LGA's campaign and refused to increase the rates to offset the Federal and State Government's funding cuts to our elderly.

"I commend the LGA and our entire membership for participating in this successful campaign," said Mayor Stephen Staines. "The loss of the concession would have placed a significant financial burden on many of our most financially vulnerable community members" he said.

LGA President, Mayor Dave Burgess, said the Treasurer's announcement on 14th May that pensioners would receive a $200 cost of living concession cheque was a win for SA pensioners and concession card holders. "I would like to congratulate the Treasurer and his Government, for listening to the groundswell of public concern that pensioners would lose $190 in rate concessions each financial year," explained Mayor Burgess.

"In fact the Treasurer has upped the ante and has committed to delivering a $10 increase, taking the concessions to $200 for full pensioners, the first increase since the 2001-02 financial year and will retain the $100 concession for self-funded retirees and concession card holders.

Drive-In Update

As the community is aware the Drive-In is up and running, showing movies and once again providing residents with another place to socialise.



Local kids Clydine, Skye, Giordan and Joshua enjoying the Drive-In earlier this year

The Drive-In has been such an important part of Coober Pedy since 1965 which was demonstrated by the financial support given by the community when money was needed to be raised. The money raised went towards the upgrading of the projection equipment which now has been successfully operating for more than 4 months.

The next stage of the Drive-In to be completed is to upgrade the existing building which houses the old projection equipment and kitchen facilities. On the 11th of May Council agreed to support the Drive-In committee by committing resources to ensure a suitable Development Plan is prepared in partnership with the committee and community and then implemented so that the renovations component of the project can be completed.

Council is pleased to continue to work with the committee and the community to see this facility fully developed and utilised.

A lot of thanks must go to the Coober Pedy Drive-In committee for their passion and commitment, in ensuring our Drive-In did not shut down as many across the country have. It is credit to all that this icon of the outback remains in operation.

Cr. McCormack on the mend



Cr Albert McCormack is expected to be back in Coober Pedy soon after suffering a stroke at his Coober Pedy property some weeks back

'Royal Visit' to the Opal Capital of the World

From the 11th to the 13th of May, His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AO, Governor of South Australia and his wife Mrs Le was, with given a personalised tour of Coober Pedy by Mayor Stephen Staines.

"Despite my personal stance on the future constitutional nature of our nation, it was great honour for me to provide His Excellency and Mrs Le, Queen Elizabeth II's representative, with a tour of our world renowned community," said our Mayor.

The purpose of the Governor's visit was primarily to open the new St Vincent de Paul op shop in Coober Pedy; however our Governor took the opportunity to get an in-depth understanding of our community.



Mayor Stephen Staines and CPMAI President Paul Reynolds accompany His Excellency The Honourable Hieu Van Le AO and Mrs. Le on a tour of the opal fields

The tour included a visit to over 14 different locations which included an opal mine on the opal fields, private dugouts, businesses, aged care facilities, the school, the RSL, the Breakaways, the Mines Rescue/SES shed as well as a number of hotels, shops and restaurants.

The Governor met well over 100 people ranging in age from one year old, Miss Rosaria Pantelis to our revered local legend Mr Ron Boland, aged 92.

"I tailored the tour to give our Governor an in-depth insight into the industry and characters that make up our community with a special focus on the opal industry, the reason why our community began 100 years ago,

"On behalf of Council, I wish to thank the many people from all the different parts of our community that made this such a wonderful and insightful experience for our very gracious VIP guests. Thanks to your efforts, I am confident that we have two more great ambassadors for our unique town," Mayor Staines said.

Council Evaluates Success of Centenary Celebrations

A recent motion of Council seeks to evaluate the success of our Centenary Celebrations over the Easter long weekend as well as determine the total cost to Council of the event(s).

"Post event evaluation is a critical stage of completing any event, " explained Mayor Staines. "It examines what was done well and what was done not so well," he said.

"Whether you were a sponsor, a committee member, a stall holder, a local business owner or a paying attendee, I encourage all those that participated over Easter to submit one or more evaluation forms. Your feedback will be very useful when we start the planning for any future events," said the Mayor.

Considering that there were multiple events that constituted our Centenary Celebrations, those that participate in the questionnaire can complete and submit multiple forms, one for each event if desired.

The evaluation forms can be downloaded from Council's website as of Thursday 21st of May 2015 or they can be collected, free of charge, from the front counter of the Council's administration office.

There is a box in the council administration office if participants wish to return the forms in person. Alternatively you can email the completed forms to Council or you can post them back to PO Box 425. Forms need to be returned to Council by no later than Thursday 4th June 2015.

POLICE NEWS

Coober Pedy REGIONAL TIMES

On Wednesday 29th April 2015, Police arrested a 49 year old male from Coober Pedy in relation to a domestic assault where it is alleged that he stabbed his partner. He was charged with causing serious harm. He was refused police bail and remanded by the court to the Port Augusta Gaol. He was issued an Intervention Order. He will appear in court at a later date.

During the evening of Sunday 3rd May 2015, police located four male youths from Coober Pedy on the roof of a business premises in Hutchinson Street, Coober Pedy. They were subsequently arrested for being unlawfully on premises. They were admitted to police bail with strict curfew conditions and not to associate with each other. They will appear in court at a later date. Police have been regularly checking on their compliance with curfews.

On Monday 4th May 2015, Police stopped a vehicle on Medway Road, Coober Pedy for mobile driver testing. As a result they reported a 38 year old male from Warburton for exceeding the prescribed concentration of alcohol, unlicensed, unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle. It is alleged that his blood alcohol concentration was 0.171. He was issued with an immediate loss of licence for 12 months. His vehicle was impounded. He will appear in court at a later date.

Over the weekend between Friday 8th May and Sunday 10th May Coober Pedy police attended the Oodnadatta Races. The races were attended by locals, tourists and visitors alike. Overall people attending the races where well behaved with a fun and safe weekend was had by all.

FIREARMS OWNERS

Police have received enquiries from firearms owners as to the correct methods for securing firearms and ammunition. Police would like to advise firearms owners of the current security conditions for firearms owners of class A and B firearms:
(1) A person (not being a dealer) who has possession of a class A or B firearm must keep the firearm secured by—
(a) securely attaching and locking it to part of the building in which it is kept; or
(b) keeping it in a locked cabinet made of hardwood or steel that is securely attached to the building in which it is kept; or
(c) keeping it in a locked safe made of steel that is securely attached to the building in which it is kept; or
(d) keeping it in a locked steel and concrete strong room; or
(e) such other method as is approved by the Registrar.
Ammunition is required to be stored in a separate locked container.

For more information please contact the South Australia Police Firearms Branch (08) 7322 3346.

Police regularly conduct security audits of premises and suggest that firearms owners should address these security requirements expediently if not currently compliant.

Police remind members of the public to call 131444 for Police assistance or 000 in the case of emergency.

If anyone has any information of criminal matters in and around Coober Pedy please contact Crime-Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or ring the Coober Pedy Police on 86725056.

Call '131 444' for 'non-urgent' police assistance

to ask a question or advice
to report a missing person or lost property
to make a complaint
to make general police related enquires
to report a crime which does not require a statement
(e.g. house breaks, illegal use, property damage, theft)

TRIPLE ZERO (000)

What happens when you call Triple Zero (000)?
When you dial 000, your call is connected to the Telstra Emergency Call service centre
You will be prompted by the Telstra operator "Police, Fire or Ambulance?"
Stay on the line and answer the questions

LOCAL POLICE MEET SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNOR AT ST. VINNIE'S OPENING

On Monday 11th May 2015 two members of Coober Pedy police, Sergeant Shaun Ratcliffe and Constable Brittany Crosby, attended the grand opening of the new Vinnies pre-loved goods store.

The store is located on Post Office Hill Road Coober Pedy and will sell a range of second hand fashion from three converted shipping containers. Police would like to thank the St. Vincent De Paul Society for their invitation to the event, and encourage locals and tourists alike to visit the new Vinnies store and show their support for the organisation.



Left to right: Constable Brittany Crosby, Governor Hieu Van Le, Sergeant Shaun Ratcliffe at the opening of Vinnies.

POLICE OPEN DAY - 50 YEARS OF PERMANENT POLICING IN COOBER PEDY

On Saturday 6th June 2015, between 10.00 am and 3.00 pm Police will be holding an Open Day at the Police Station, to celebrate 50 years of permanent policing in Coober Pedy.

This is a great opportunity for anyone who has an interest in having a look inside the Police facilities, particularly for families with children. There will be historical display of photographs, uniform and equipment.

Local uniformed police officers will be available throughout the day to guide members of the public through the facility. There will be a ceremony for the unveiling of a commemorative plaque at midday.

Any enquiries can be made at the Coober Pedy Police Station on (08) 8672 5056.

VICTIMS OF VANDALISM REPLACE CENTENARY MOSAICS

EARLIER THIS YEAR ON Tuesday 31st March near the Rotunda on Hutchison Street several mosaics where destroyed by vandals.

Hours of painstaking hard work by community members went into designing and creating these mosaics especially for the Coober Pedy Centenary celebrations.

Senior Sergeant Allan Dawson said, "Community frustrations with this type of behaviour are understandable.



Julie Rowntree with replacement mosaic of the district's native flowers

The artists are rightly distraught and outraged by the wanton vandalism."

"Police have made extensive enquiries in relation to the damage with limited leads. Police are urging anyone with information that could assist with the investigation to contact police," said the Sergeant.

As part of a Multicultural Forum project, the Mosaic Group have worked for 18 months to have their mosaic artwork ready for the Centenary this year.

Some of Coober Pedy's features were made into mosaic art and placed on 7 rocks at the rotunda for locals and visitors to enjoy. These features were a Galah, two Lizards, the Breakaways, the Inland Sea, Native Flowers, a Mining Bulldozer and the Centenary Logo.

AT THE TIME Local resident Ms Ronda Michell, a mosaic group member said, "You try to do something nice for the community and vandals think it's ok to destroy someone else's hours of hard work."



Yvonne Geiszler's mosaic bulldozer depicting open cut opal mining that was destroyed by vandals is now replaced by Yvonne for the town and travellers to enjoy

The mosaic artwork is quite colourful - go take a look!

2015: ROYAL COMMISSION INTO NUCLEAR WHILE SUN AND WIND ARE STILL FREE!

To The Editor
Coober Pedy Regional Times

The South Australian Nuclear Royal Commission is holding forums around the State, and it is clear that these forums are arousing public interest, particularly in Coober Pedy.

Having read the four Issues Papers on the Royal Commission website, I have found a surprising level of vagueness and omissions. For example, they talk about "radiation" - without once identifying the type of radiaion (ionising) that is related to nuclear power. They also minimise the role of renewable energy, and indeed seem lacking in awareness of the latest developments in renewable energy.

In his presentation at Coober Pedy, Kevin Scarce repeatedly urged people to get themselves informed, and to put in submissions to the Royal Commission. I think that this was very good advice.

As I listen to people discussing nuclear power, it is clear that there is considerable anxiety about nuclear issues - questions of costs, safety, hazards of radiation, the decades before implementing the scheme, the nuclear waste burden that might be left for future generations.

Understandably, people are fearful. It would be a shame if fear were to paralyse us from acting on this matter. There is another way to look at this Royal Commission.

Rather than emphasising those very negative aspects of nuclear power, we can tune in to what is happening world-wide - in energy efficiency and renewable energy. The powers that be in South Australia will talk about the need for jobs. But renewable energy is already providing many jobs, many thousands overseas. .

The South Australian Nuclear Royal Commission needs to be told about modern developments - like solar storage batteries, like the falling costs of solar and wind energy, the new small scale and large scale solar and wind technologies, solar desalination plants. South Australia has an amazing agricultural initiative in Sundrop farm - solar power bringing water, and energy to horticulture in the desert.

Above all - let's not forget what the big money men don't want us to remember. Wind and sun power are FREE. Dr Helen Caldicott once said *"If they could put a blanket around the sun, and sell holes, they would"*. Well, they couldn't get that blanket up, so they settled for marketing nuclear power.

The community has every opportunity to send in submissions, not so much about fear and danger, but showing Kevin Scarce and the royal commission that there are positive, cheaper, and faster, alternatives to this very dubious nuclear fuel chain idea.

Sincerely
Noel Wauchope
2/40 Filbert St
Caulfield South 3162

Criminals let off while responsible shooters hung out to dry

The peak body representing sporting shooters and recreational hunters in South Australia has slammed the light sentence given to a trafficker of a military firearm last week.

District Court Judge Paul Cuthbertson handed down a six-month suspended sentence, $100 three-year bond and 100 hours of community service to Jason Santoro for possessing a firearm without a licence, instead of the more serious charge of attempting to sell a highly illegal firearm on the black market.

SSAA SA President David Handyside questioned the message the deplorable sentence sends to the community when a person with the clear criminal intent of selling an illegal firearm, without any thought of how it could be used, is given such leniency in the courts.

"While South Australia's licensed, law-abiding firearm owners are under constant scrutiny and can lose their licence, therefore their ability to participate in their chosen sport and pastime, through a mere technicality, the criminal person with a malicious agenda appears to be let off quite lightly," he said.

In sentencing, Judge Cuthbertson went as far to say that the inoperable nature of the firearm meant it did not "pose the same threat to the community as an operable one would have," before advising the convicted criminal who had past minor convictions "to stay out of trouble."

"What message does it send to others in the community when there is such a gap between the treatment of the criminal elements of society, compared to those who have followed all the right steps in order to possess a firearm, but are severely penalized for misunderstanding or forgetting a technicality?" Mr Handyside said.

"We just don't understand the logic, and this case highlights the widening gap in how the criminal person is treated compared to the licensed firearm owner."

Coober Pedy's new-look Vinnies Family Centre

Letter to the Editor

I had the great pleasure to join with the residents of Coober Pedy to celebrate opening of Coober Pedy's new-look Vinnies Family Centre. It was a great community event brought about by the hard work and vision of many but in particular I would like to acknowledge Coober Pedy Conference President, Tina Boyd who project managed the work locally led by Keith Colyer, and local members, volunteers and friends for their dedication and perseverance during the construction phase of the new Vinnies Family Centre.

The new Vinnies Family Centre is better equipped to provide assistance to the people of Coober Pedy than ever before. The new facility is not only more inviting but has a wider range of stock, including clothes and household items and all the profits raised from the sale of goods in store are returned to the community through the many services we provide.

This help is not limited to providing clothing or food and shelter, but extends to providing friendship and relief from loneliness and assistance to those suffering from illness.

We believe that the voices of those in need in regional and remote communities are just as important as the voices of those who live in the cities. We ensure this by working with local communities. Our volunteers and members come from the towns and communities they live in and call home and all of them have done the town proud through this new centre.
Through the opening of this new Vinnies Family Centre, the St Vincent de Paul Society is demonstrating its commitment and thanks to the people of Coober Pedy and we look forward to walking together for many years to come.

Graham West
National President, St Vincent de Paul Society



Coober Pedy Conference President, Tina Boyd project managed the work locally led by Keith Colyer



Vinnie's volunteers Valerie and Jayne with Tina Boyd and customer Monique Harding



Vinnie's volunteer Elizabeth Kenyon

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Coober Pedy REGIONAL TIMES

Nuclear Fuel Chain Royal Commission Community Consultation Coober Pedy

Due to space issues - this is a precised transcript

Slide) This gives a hint of where nuclear reactors are in the world today - 340 reactors, and 70 being built. That's the nuclear fuel cycle.

How do we manage that?
We've developed 4 papers, one on each part of the cycle.

1. Exploration and Mining What are the costs and benefits - environmental, community and economic?
Question here: Who is we?
SCARCE: We being the Commission. We have 5 world leaders on these issues, both for and against. Then we will call in experts that we need.

Female Questioner- .(inaudible) .. about the evidence?
SCARCE: The question is - do we expand uranium mining? It's essential not to go back over what was done in the past - but look to what can be done in the future. What are the risks and opportunities for expansion?

Female questioner. Will there be a Commission on renewables? What is your background?
SCARCE: On renewables - I'll go back to that. The Commision needs someoe to be independent. I am a naval officer. I have been Governor of this State. We have to have someone who is neither for nor against. We have got to have someone to bring the community together.

Female questioner: How are you paid?
Male voice intervenes - Let Kevin continue

SCARCE: We'll examine all 4 questions of the Terms of Reference. We will gather the data to answer these questions.
1. Expanding existing mining
2 Value adding - adding processing
All of these papers pose series of questions. It's a complex subject. We try to simplify it and make data available.
3. Electricity generation. We are not loking just at nuclear powe. Also we look at renewables. We need to look at all the technologies - solar, solar thermal, geothermal. Can they provide baseload power? What industries might we attract to the State if we had the right power base for the future, not just nuclear.. Does it make sense o develop nuclear processing for electricity generation?
South Australia has a comparative advantage because of all the uranium that we have in the ground. Where does the State have opportunities? If you think that renewables can deliver clean green energy, tell us.
4. Wastes - what are the methods and the risks? We need to do the economics. We have storage issues here in Australia. The Federal government has a proposal out for those who might store waste.

Female questioner. We have investigated this before, and decided against it. 5 years ago the decision was made not to have nuclear waste importing. Aren't you going over the same questions again ?
SCARCE: I can't answer about the Northern territory. In 2017 we are going to lose 12000 - 13000 jobs in car manufacturing. It seems to me to be the right time to ask ourselves the question doe sit make sense to expand the cycle. Where does the State have opportunities for the future?
Female questioner. South Australia can have a green image. People are looking for a healthy environment for the future. I have worked for 5 years in electricity development in Switzerland I have seen this in Europe.....

SCARCE: I urge you to write a submission and put that forward in a submission,
Now we've got the papers. We have set the 3 months to put these questions forward. We're developing open community forums to develop issues, to discuss the major elements arising from the submissions we've received and from our own research. I expect that we will spend several days on each of the four processes. We hop eto be out in the community, engaging the community. This is not the first and only engagement in the process, Then there is our website. All papers, all the submissions will be on this website. It is a quite transparent process.

We encourage all submissions to be made public. I am not interested in submissions that cannot be made public. Where there is a defined commercial interst that might not be published. Some Aboriginal submissions might not be published, for cultural reasons.

Male questioner: .... about Fukushima...
SCARCE: - There were no deaths in Fukushima - yet. He talks about exaggeration of effects of Fukushima - claims of thousands of deaths - myths. What we have to figure out - the consequences and probability of serious consequences - is it worth it?

Female questioner: You are putting the costs and the burdens on to future generations?
SCARCE: And the opportunities and potential benefits. I'm not suggesting that the consequences are not serious. We have to measure the seriousness against the probability of accidents.

Female questioner: Where does the money come from?
Interjection from a male voice - asks this questioner: Do you live in Coober Pedy? She replies; I have done.

SCARCE: Let's go to the facts. these are questions that must be asked - if it's an issue to unearth - (He repeats encouragement to put these matters in a submission)

Female questioner: Financially - why did Roxby not go ahead with their planned expansion a few years ago? You want to dig up more uranium?
SCARCE: I said I wanted to look at the costs and the risks. By all means, have the debate. Look at the State when it's 27 million, and look at where opportunity exists in the future - if it's in renewables.
Interjection from a male voice: I don't think we're going to get a sensible argument here, so we can move along.

Female questioner: In regional development across South Australia - what part?
Male questioner: Why is South Australia picked for this? We've had Maralinga - nuclear explosions. To run nuclear power you gotta have a bloody lot of water. Are they gonna pull it out of the Great Artesian Basin like the mob that's doing all the fracking? It seems to me that in our nuclear age of independence we've got a lot of sun. We have 364 days of sun. We just seem to be picked. It just seems to all go out of our State to interstate or overseas. If there's a bomb or an earthquake..... WE got big companies down South. Here in Coober Pedy we got no say at all.

SCARCE: I'm looking at the potential for opportunities of the future. We in South Australia have uranium. WE have world class uranium in South Australia. Is there an opportunity to add value to it before we send it overseas? We look at the costs and benefits. WE can talk about world's best practice - only if we are convinced that the safety of this part of the process makes sense for our State.
Male questioner: We're talking about shipping the wastes back to South Australia. I'm on my way out - got kids, grandkids. In 20 years time we all won't be here.
SCARCE: Is there opportunity to value add to it here before it goes overseas? Nowhere in our Royal Commission Terms of Reference are we asked to identify locations. We are asked to see if it is economic, if it makes sense for our State. We should ask, get the data, assess the potential for our State.

Male questioner: I've got great grandkids. No matter what you people say - all the bloody experts - I need to talk this over with my grandkids.
In 20 years' time I won't be here. By the time this does get on the ground we won't be here to say we regret it - none of this will be recorded.
SCARCE: I hope that through this process we will get an understanding of the opportunities, risks and benefits.The issue here is to have the discussion we need to have - get the facts - make sure that we have a common understanding.
Male questioner. I get the feeling it's not about us. It's about money. There's a misty fog in my brain about this. You put a windmill up - and people complain - health worries.. Our wind farms - most of the energy goes to bloody Victoria. Nuclear - to me - is not a good way to go.
SCARCE: Keep an open mind, either way, and don't be afraid to ask
Questioner: I'm not afraid to ask - but who owns Roxby? They're Australian? Who owns it?
SCARCE: partly.
Female questioner - question on banning uranium mining....
SCARCE: We will answer each of the 4 Terms of Reference. We might come to a very different conclusion on each one

Female questioner: Most nuclear plants in other countries are reaching the end of their life. Lots have to be decommissioned. Some have to be extended. What happens when they have to be decommissioned? Where do we get them facts? We can't get the facts now. Nobody talks about it.

SCARCE: We will visit those countries. No doubt after the Fukushima accident there was a loss of confidence in the nuclear industry. I don't know how Germany can get their power
Female questioner. I can tell you. Solar.
SCARCE: We'll go and find that data. If wind and solar can provide baseload power for the future we might not need nuclear. How do you generate the power for the future. send us submissions.
Male questioner (identifies himself as member of the miners association): A Member of Parliament told me that, "Nuclear power is far too expensive". Australia has been trying to find a waste site for quite some time. What's happening at Arcoona Station that was bought as a nuclear waste site.
Did the state government waste that money?
SCARCE: I've not seen that data - that says that nuclear is too expensive. Get the data and we can answer that question . I don't know about that. I'm not going outside of my Terms of Reference. As far as I know the State government doesn't have a site. I am not aware of it. It is a Federal government responsibility.
Female questioner: UK has had nuclear power for 50 years, and no explosions. In this inquiry, will you be able to get information from UK?. They must be doing something right.
SCARCE: We plan to go overseas at the end of this month - to visit Taiwan - Norway - Finland - to see the waste disposal system - to France to look at the modern technology - they are very much into reprocessing. We go to UK,- their regulatory framework is as good as any in the world. We go to UAE to look at the regulatory framework that they have developed within a very short time period. We will also see people who are against nuclear power.
Female questioner: In view of what has been said today, what will happen to all our uranium if it isn't used, in the future?
SCARCE: It comes down to the question - can we make a better opportunity with it?. We want submissions, a smuch evidence as possible. It's back to seeking data - to form a view.
Female questioner: I wonder if it should be all closed down (Roxby?). Should it be developed in some other way?.
SCARCE: The State government has made it clear - we are not examining current uranium mining. We're charged with looking to the future - what can be done with uranium, with thorium.
Male questioner: South Korea has come up with a special process of coal burning that produces almost no CO2.
SCARCE: We will be looking at that and at all the technologies for the future - the power sources of the future, not just nuclear. It makes sensethat if we contnue to use coal we need to collectively come to a decision on what to do about CO2 and the environment. I ma not saying that nuclear is the answer.
Male questioner: In China, every 8 days they start a new coal -fired generation plant, and they're not stopping this until 2030.
SCARCE: They are also producing 20-30 new nuclear reactors.

Male questioner: How much pollution is there from China's coal?
SCARCE: that's a good question. I am not answering that.
Male questioner: In your travels, will you look at Chernobyl and the devastation there?
SCARCE: Yes, we need to look at Chernobyl, and ask - what happened, and why it happened, and look at the consequences.

Male questioner: There are easier and cheaper ways to get power. Are yu having any more consultations at Coober Pedy?
SCARCE: We will come back with our findings. We have to serve all of South Australia.

Male questioner - suggest 7 pm is a better time to start...
SCARCE:Ask any of our team . No more questions. Thank you. It's lunchtime. You can ask Wes, Greg, any of our team, over lunch.

Coober Pedy REGIONAL TIMES

SA GOVERNOR HON. HIEU VAN LE VISITS COOBER PEDY

From Monday 11 - Wednesday 13 May Coober Pedy had the pleasure of an extended visit from the South Australian Governor, His Excellency The Honourable Hieu Van Le AO accompanied by his wife Mrs. Le.

As guests of The St Vincent de Paul Society (SA), the Governor, accompanied by Mrs Le, officially opened the Coober Pedy Vinnies Centre, after which the Governor and Mrs Le made presentations to volunteers and undertook a tour of the centre.

At the St Vinnie's opening, the guests heard from a variety of speakers about the journey of recovery for the Coober Pedy St Vinnie's Centre after a visit to Coober Pedy David Wark CEO of St Vincent de Paul Society (SA) who became determined to provide Coober Pedy with a new Vinnies Centre to replace the very crowded and uninviting house which had been meeting the needs of people requiring assistance for around 20 years.

It was a delight for all of the guests to hear the students of the Coober Pedy Area School perform musical items after the presentations were completed. Everyone was captivated by the 'sounds of music' and the angelic voices of the young students.

In the late afternoon the Governor and Mrs Le toured the opal fields and visited an operating opal mine with Mayor Stephen Staines and Paul Reynold of the Miners Association.

In the evening at Tom and Mary's Greek Taverna Restaurant, the Governor and Mrs Le attended a dinner with Reverend Father Brian Mathews, Parish Priest Coober Pedy, and staff and volunteers of The St Vincent de Paul Society.

On behalf of the Governor Mr. Ritchie Hollands the Official Secretary to the Governor said, "His Excellency the Governor and Mrs Le had a wonderful visit to Coober Pedy last week. His Excellency was delighted to open the new Vinnie's Centre on Monday afternoon, before he and Mrs Le embarked on a comprehensive visit program hosted by His Worship the Mayor, Stephen Staines until Wednesday lunchtime. This included visits to the Area School, Umoona Aged Care, an operating mine, two private dugouts, the Catholic and Serbian Orthodox Churches, and the Breakaways Conservation Park.

"His Excellency and Mrs Le thoroughly enjoyed meeting members of the Coober Pedy community, including volunteers at the Emergency Headquarters, veterans at the RSL Hall, and members of the Council, the Business Association and Ministers Association, and look forward to a return visit."



Governor Le helps St. Vinnie staff cut the cake at the official opening of the Centre



Coober Pedy Area School student line up a group photo with Governor Le



The CPAS students perform at the opening of the St Vinnie's Centre



Mrs. Le passes around small gifts to the CPAS musicians



After the underground opal mine tour, the Governor and Mrs. Le, Mayor Staines and Paul Reynolds inspected a noodling machine belonging to Ashley Gerschwitz (Pictured).



Governor Le laid a wreath at the RSL memorial. Pictured also are Dave Bowman, Byrice Tickner President RSL, Grant Steele Vice President, Mayor Steve Staines and George Russell

ADVERTISEMENT

A gift for living



If you're aged 50-74 you'll be sent a free bowel cancer screening kit. The kit is simple to use and can detect bowel cancer before any symptoms appear. Around 80 Australians die of bowel cancer every week, but if detected early, up to 90% of cases can be successfully treated. So be sure to complete and return your kit. It's a gift that could save your life. If you're over 74 talk to your GP. By 2020 people aged 50-74 will receive a kit every two years.

Australian Government

australia.gov.au/bowelscreening
1800 11 88 68

Authorised by the Australian Government, Capital Hill, Canberra.

NATIONAL BOWELCANCER SCREENING PROGRAM

Coober Pedy Football Club

Home games for the senior saints football

Round 3 25/4/15 vs hornridge magpies 1pm
Round 4 2/5/15 vs roxby miners 1pm
Round 7 30/4/15 vs east roxby roos 1pm
Round 9 13/6/15 vs roxby miners 1pm
Round 13 18/7/15 vs hornridge magpies 1pm

Far North Football League 2015

OLYMPIC DAM FOOTBALL CLUB v. COOBER PEDY FOOTBALL CLUB
Round 6 - 16/05/2015

Olympic Dam Football Club	2.3, 7.8, 15.16, 21.19 (145)
Coober Pedy Football Club	1.2, 4.2, 5.3, 5.4 (34)

GOALS, Olympic Dam Football Club :
Ian McBey 4, Jordan Newton 4, Tyson Hornhardt 3, Michael Shaw 3, Scott Montgomerie 2, Jonathon Veale 2,
Tim Corneliusen 1, Jonacani Korovulavula 1, Callum Steel 1

Coober Pedy Football Club :
Jaeden Calyun 2, Dylan Warren 1, Kerry Roderick 1, Jesse Retallack 1

BEST, Olympic Dam Football Club :
Michael Shaw, Jordan Newton, Jonathon Veale, Stuart Clark, Ian McBey

Coober Pedy Football Club :
Michael Beelitz, Kingsley Brown, Kerry Roderick, Bradley Crombie, Keiran Miller

Coober Pedy Shooters Club

Inc. PO Box 1006,
COOBER PEDY, SA 5723

Upcoming Shoots for 1 May - 31 May

*** Friday Night Clay Target Shotgun : 7pm**
*** Saturday Pistol: 20/20 and Dropdown Target Shoot: 9am & 11am**
*** Sunday Rifles : Centrefire 100m and Shotgun Clay Target Shoot**

New Shooters Welcome

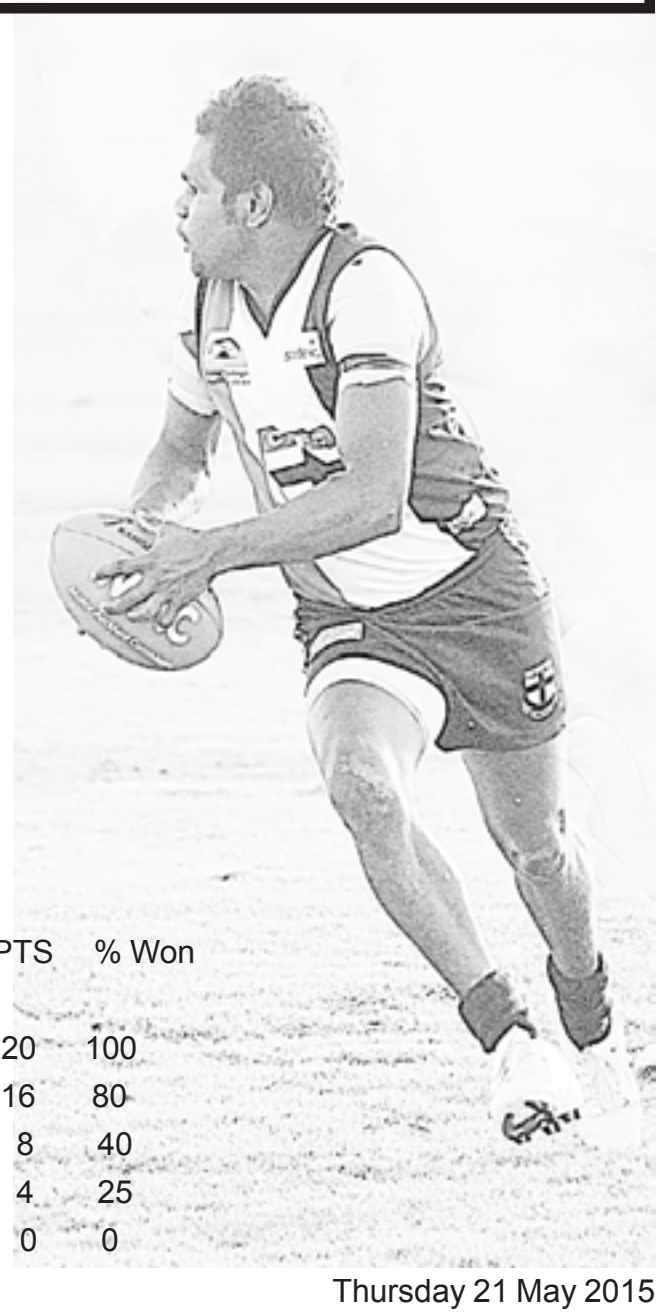


Notice Of AGM

Coober Pedy Shooters Club AGM
SUNDAY MAY 31st at 1PM
Shooters Club Road
Coober Pedy
Any queries contact President : John DiDonna 04 2764 9389
Secretary : Les Pullen 04 3523 2029

TOP TEN GOAL KICKERS:

FIRSTNAME	SURNAME	CLUB	THIS RND	GOALS
Far North Football League 2015				
Sean	Mcivor	Roxby Districts Sporting Club	0	15
Todd	Paull	East Roxby Football Club	4	14
Dale	Summerton	Olympic Dam Football Club	0	10
Troy	Mulders	East Roxby Football Club	0	8
Ian	McBey	Olympic Dam Football Club	4	8
Kelvin	Henry	Coober Pedy Football Club	0	8
Trent	Grosser	Hornridge Sporting Club	0	7
Michael	Beelitz	Coober Pedy Football Club	0	6
Jordan	Mandemaker	Roxby Districts Sporting Club	2	6
Joel	Harman	Hornridge Sporting Club	0	6
Luke	Godfrey	Roxby Districts Sporting Club	2	6



Far North Football League 2015

Position	Team	P	W	L	D	B	FF	For	Agst	%	PTS	% Won
1	Roxby Districts Sporting Club	5	5	0	0	1	0	557	210	265.24	20	100
2	Olympic Dam Football Club	5	4	1	0	1	0	460	314	146.50	16	80
3	East Roxby Football Club	5	2	3	0	1	0	394	490	80.41	8	40
4	Hornridge Sporting Club	4	1	3	0	2	0	231	351	65.81	4	25
5	Coober Pedy Football Club	5	0	5	0	1	0	280	557	50.27	0	0

ROWAN HIGHLIGHTS COOBER PEDY IN FEDERAL PARLIAMENT



Rowan Ramsey (Grey, Liberal Party)

It was my privilege over Easter to attend the hundredth celebration of the discovery of opal at Coober Pedy by Willie Hutchison, a 14-year-old in 1915.

What a fabulous community it has become. It is unique. The Opal Festival, which has become an annual event, was staged over Easter.

There was a street parade, lots of things for people to do at the oval and a fabulous gem show that is organised by the Coober Pedy Miners Association, which is led by Paul Reynolds.

Coober Pedy is a tourism mecca. We have working mines and we have historical mines for visitors to explore. We have some of the world's best accommodation and certainly the world's best underground accommodation.

There are wonderful underground restaurants, showrooms and dugouts. About 70 per cent of the population live subterraneously. Just out of town, there are the wonderful Breakaways. In fact, a number of movies of the shot around the Coober Pedy area.

It is interesting: there is a lot of focus on Mad Max at the moment. In Mad Max: Beyond Thunderdome, Coober Pedy is where Tina Turner came out of the spacecraft, which is still in the main street. Of course, The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert was filmed there.

This is a great place. What I am trying to tell people is that if you have been all over the world and you are jaded, come for a look. As Molly Meldrum would say, 'Do yourself a favour.

National Stronger Regions Fund: Round Two now open

LOCAL councils and incorporated not-for-profit organisations can now apply for funding of between $20,000 and $10 million for capital infrastructure projects under Round Two of the $1 billion National Stronger Regions Fund.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development Warren Truss, at Ronald McDonald House in Brisbane today for the announcement, said the Australian Government is very pleased with the level of interest shown in the programme under Round One.

The Ronald McDonald House project was one of 51 successful applicants under Round One.

"We are providing $5.3 million towards construction of a new $34 million Ronald McDonald House in South Brisbane, with 112 accommodation rooms, communal spaces including a kitchen, laundry, dining area, lounge and games room," Mr Truss said.

"The facility will also include outdoor recreation and play areas and on-site parking.

There were 405 applications received under Round One seeking funding of over $1.2 billion.

"I encourage applicants to put forward projects that demonstrate strong economic outcomes, especially in disadvantaged regions, to give themselves the best opportunity for success under Round Two.

"Feedback will soon be available for unsuccessful applicants from Round One who wish to strengthen their application and re-apply for funding."

"Under Round Two, $25 million will be quarantined for those projects seeking funding of $1 million or less. This will allow a broader reach across Australia's regions and better reflect the national intent of the programme.

"Applicants will also be able to submit up to two applications under this Round."

The Australian Government provided $212 million to successful applicants under Round One of the programme.

More information on the programme, including on the application process for Round Two, is available at: www.infrastructure.gov.au/nsrf

Roads to Recovery: Local councils issued $135 million Tuesday 19 May

THE final 2014-15 quarterly instalment of the Australian Government's $2.1 billion Roads to Recovery programme is being paid to 354 local governments across Australia on Tuesday

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development Warren Truss said payments totalling more than $135 million under Roads to Recovery will deliver much-needed local road construction and street maintenance.

"These payments bring the amount paid to local governments in 2014-15 under the Roads to Recovery programme to $321.7 million," Mr Truss said.

"Over the full five years of the programme, local road and street works with receive $2.1 billion under the programme, which is a vital for local councils. And, this coming 2015-16 financial year, councils will each receive a double allocation boosting the programme from $350 million to $700 million.

"Our Roads to Recovery Programme allows councils across Australia to direct road construction and maintenance funding to where it is needed most, ensuring that local needs and knowledge choose the best local roads.

"Tuesday's Roads to Recovery payments come hot on the heels of our $575 million payment to local governments last week, through the Australian Government Financial Assistance Grants programme, which has provided $2.3 billion nationwide over this financial year.

"Our Financial Assistance Grants allow local governments to prioritise funding according to local needs, with the untied grant funding being used to deliver infrastructure, health, recreation, environment and employment projects across Australia."

Mr Truss added that last week's Federal Budget continues the Australian Government's $50 billion commitment to building the infrastructure for a prosperous future.

"Programmes like Roads to Recovery and the Financial Assistance Grants are important because they enable decisions about local works to be made at the local level," Mr Truss said.

"Councils are already planning for their double Roads to Recovery payment in the first quarter of the new financial year – doubling the benefits and creating more jobs in local communities across Australia."

Alarming spike in refugee numbers as global peace declines



Article by Stephen Staines

In mid-2014, for the first time since the end of World War 2, global refugee numbers exceeded 50 million people.

With war raging across large swathes of the Middle East and Africa and elsewhere, an estimated 5.5 million people became newly uprooted during the first six months of 2014, signalling a further rise in the number of people forcibly displaced from their homes.

After Syria and Afghanistan, the leading countries of origin of refugees are Somalia (1.1 million), Sudan (670,000), South Sudan (509,000), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (493,000), Myanmar (480,000) and Iraq (426,000). Pakistan, which hosts 1.6 million Afghan refugees, remains the biggest host country in absolute terms. Other countries with large refugee populations are Lebanon (1.1 million), Iran (982,000), Turkey (824,000), Jordan (737,000), Ethiopia (588,000), Kenya (537,000) and Chad (455,000).

By comparing the number of refugees to the size of a country's population or economy, a United Nation Human Rights Commission report puts the contribution made by host nations into context. Relative to the sizes of their populations Lebanon and Jordan host the largest number of refugees, while relative to the sizes of their economies the burdens carried by Ethiopia and Pakistan are the greatest.

This demonstrates that the economic, social and human cost of caring for refugees worldwide is being borne mostly by the poorest communities, those who are least able to afford it.

The rise in worldwide violence could be linked to the Global Peace Index which found that the economic cost of global violence reached more than $10 trillion which is equivalent to $1,300 for every man women and child on the planet in 2013.

Of the 10 largest arms manufacturers and other military service companies who make the greatest profit from the "war economy", 6 are located in the United States and the other 4 are headquartered in the UK, France, Italy and the Netherlands respectively. The two largest exporters of weapons worldwide remain the United States and Russia. Turkey is the United States' largest customer (Australia #4) and China is Russia's largest customer. However the United Arab Emirates (UAE) does not discriminate. The UAE are the largest importer of weaponry in the world and buy from both Russia and the United States.

Germany's government recently reduced its role in the global arms industry (lowest exports since 2007) by introducing new restrictions and reducing their own defence industry on moral grounds.

In February 2015, the US State Department advised that widespread export of armed drones will occur for the first time. In due course the US could challenge the global market supremacy of Israel, the world's largest exporter of drone technology.

The US Air Force is currently grappling with a shortage of drone pilots. This may be linked to the next generation of autonomous weapons which will be fully controlled by 'lethal autonomous robotics' - with a 'fire-and-forget' mode of operation.

Global peacefulness has steadily fallen since the Global Financial Crisis of 2008, reversing a trend, which saw global peacefulness rise continuously since the end of World War Two.

CLASSIFIEDS ADVERTISING

Coober Pedy REGIONAL TIMES

See page 2 for Rates, Deadlines & Publishing Dates

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Burton SA



PUBLIC NOTICE

Letter of Apology

To whom it may concern

At a public session of the District Council of Coober Pedy on 17 February 2015 a proposal put forward by Athanasiadis Nominees Pty Ltd (ANPL) for the construction and re-surfacing of a road to provide a seconday means of access to the BIG4 Stuart Range Outback Resort at Coober Pedy (Resort) was discussed. The proposal involved the sharing of the construction costs in respect of the road on the basis that the Resort operator contributed $64,048 and the Council contributed $29,678 towards the budgeted costs.

In the above session, after the majority of council members had rejected the proposal I voiced my opposition to the proposal in the course of which I said the following words:

"if this motion gets passed I think someone's to get brown paper bags on their desk."

I acknowledge that the statement was highly inappropriate and conveyed that ANPL and/or Mr Athanasiadis would be prepared to offer a bribe or other improper inducement to councillors or council officers to secure approval for the proposal. I accept that there is no basis whatsoever to such an assertion. I do not consider that ANPL or Mr Athanasiadis have behaved in any way improperly in relation to the subject proposal.

I regret having made the statement and unreservedly apologise to ANPL and to Mr Athanasiadis for any offence, embarrassment or damage it may have caused to them.

Yours sincerely
George Russell

Keep the Outback Beautiful



FOR SALE - MACHINERY

BULLDOZER D8H Serial number 46A32687. Last series of D8H before D8k Good Money making machine, not a lemon. Cheaper than a 4 wheel drive.
Location Mintabie.
Very good condition including many spare parts.
Reason for selling, miner is retiring.
Buy now before Tax rise $72,000 with G.S.T. Ring Sam (Slavko) on mobile 0417668275 between or email; njausnik@hotmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

COOBER PEDY DRIVE-IN THEATRE

NOTICE OF AGM
5.30PM
TUESDAY 9TH JUNE
AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PUBLIC NOTICE - SURVEYOR

From Wednesday 27th May and over the following two weeks, Richard Abbott Land Surveyor will be visiting some properties in the proposed sewer extension area in Coober Pedy to take spot levels for the future design of the sewer extension.

The areas to looked at will be: Flinders Street; Grey Street; Eyre Street; Bass Street; Cook Street; Burke Street; Ward Street; Wills Street; Hocking Street; Stuart Street; Robins Blvd; Catacomb Road; Marcia Street; Fitzgerald Street; CA Road; Big Johns Road; Hospital Road; Chucky Street; Hutchison Street; Malliotis Blvd; Paxton Road; Van Brugge Street; Grund Street; Reinecke Street; Reilly Street; Kent Street; Brady Street; Bartrum Street; Wake Parade; Clark Street; Miller Street; Pierce Street

Any problems please call Phil Van Poorten at Council Works Department: 08 8672 4629

BREAKAWAY'S MARATHON WINNERS AND SPONSORS

The Breakaway's Marathon 2015 'operations' sponsors were:
The Bakeaways Cafe; The Miners Store Supermarket; Carter's IGA & Cellarbrations; O Z Minerals; Catacombs Church; Shaz's Massage Therapy; The District Council of Coober Pedy; Shell Coober Pedy; Coober Pedy Community Church; John's Pizza Bar & Restaurant
The 2015 'prize' sponsors were: The Big Miner; Old Timers Mine; Caltex Coober Pedy; Opals on Hutchison; Christine Challis; Opalios; The Earth Shop; Post Office – Coober Pedy Branch; Jewellers of Opal; Seven Stones Designer Jewellers; Jill's Wear-House Arcade Star Opal; John & Yoka's Opal & Art; Underground Books; Josephine's Gallery; Unique Opal & Diamond Manufacturers; Kostas Olympic Opal Centre; Vranci – Opal Shop; Oasis Tourist Park.
Category Children's 2.2km RUNNING
3rd Male Runner: Hertu Ravichandran/Yani Axiomakarou with time of: 14.56 Prize: $25 Voucher from Jill's Wear-House Arcade & $45 Pendant from John & Yoka's Opal & Art
3rd Female Runner: Sandra Jose with time of: 13.05. Prize: $25 Voucher from Jill's Wear-House Arcade & $30 Pendant from John & Yoka's Opal & Art
2nd Male Runner: Dylan Smith with time of: 11.36 Prize: $50 Voucher from Jill's Wear-House Arcade & $50 Voucher from The Earth Shop
2nd Female Runner: Krista Williams with time of: 13.55. Prize: $50 Voucher from Jill's Wear-House Arcade & $30 Craft from Christine Challis
1st Male Runner: Ramath Thomas with time of: 10.33. Prize: $75 Voucher from Jill's Wear-House Arcade & $70 Pendant from John & Yoka's Opal & Art
1st Female Runner: Sophie Talbot-Ridgway with time of: 11.54. Prize: $75 Voucher from Jill's Wear-House Arcade & $68 Jewelry from John & Yoka's Opal & Art
Category 42km CYCLING
3rd Male Cyclist: Jake Aulich with time of: 3.11.42. Prize: $50 Voucher from Underground Books & Gallery
3rd Female Cyclist: Joy Chau with time of: 3.25.46. Prize: $50 Opal Necklace from Jewellers of Opal
2nd Male Cyclist: Sebastian Clark with time of: 2.56.30. Prize: $95 Dot Painting from Star Opal
2nd Female Cyclist: Caris-Haf Britton with time of: 2.33.53. Prize: $100 Necklace from Vranci – Opal Shop
1st Male Cyclist: Damien Bachmann with time of: 2.14.27. Prize: $220 Dot Painting from Josephine's Gallery & Kangaroo Orphanage
1st Female Cyclist: Jayde Grava with time of: 2.13.10. Prize: $250 handmade Solid Opal Necklace from Opals on Hutchison – made by Angela
Category 21km RUNNING
3rd Male Runner: Chris Mills with time of: 2.23.05. Prize: $50 VISA Card from Australia Post – Coober Pedy Branch
3rd Female Runner: no third. 2nd Male Runner: Clint Indelicato with time of: 2.09.10
Prize: $160 Dot Painting from Oasis Tourist Park. 2nd Female Runner: no second
1st Male Runner: Kim Houghton with time of: 1.43.22. Prize: $750 Pendant from The Big Miner & $50 Fuel Voucher from Caltex Coober Pedy
1st Female Runner: Fiona Coyle with time of: 1.40.59. Prize: $1,000 Dot Painting from the Old Timers Mine
Category 42km RUNNING
3rd Male Runner: Frank Parkes with time of: 3.29.05. Prize: $120 handmade Zebra Stone from John & Yoka's Opal & Art
3rd Female Runner: Karen Bentley with time of: 4.33.18. Prize: $70 handmade Opal Inlay Earrings from Seven Stones Designer Jewellers
2nd Male Runner: Jonathan Miller with time of: 3.28.24. Prize: $375 Opal Necklace from Kostas Olympic Opal Centre
2nd Female Runner: Tahnee Benson with time of: 4.29.40. Prize: $499 Opal Necklace from Opalios
1st Male Runner: Kevin Coyle with time of: 3.19.46. Prize: $1,500 hand carved Solid Silver Medallion with Opal made & donated by Unique Opal & Diamond Manufacturers & The London Engraver
1st Female Runner: Sarah Murphy with time of: 3.59.54
Prize: $1,500 hand carved Solid Silver Medallion with Opal made & donated by Unique Opal & Diamond Manufacturers & The London Engraver

PUBLIC NOTICE

Government of South Australia
Department of State Development

Mining Act 1971

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 28 (5) of the *Mining Act 1971*, that the Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy proposes to grant an Exploration Licence over the undermentioned area.

Applicant:	Christopher William Reindler
Location:	Mount Sarah Area – approx. 60 km NNW of Oodnadatta
Pastoral Lease:	Mount Sarah
Term:	Two years
Area in km²:	269
Ref:	2015/00059

Plan and co-ordinates can be found on the Department of State Development website: http://www.minerals.statedevelopment.sa.gov.au/public_notices or by phoning Mineral Tenements on 08 8463 3103.

J Martin
Mining Registrar

5030518 www.statedevelopment.sa.gov.au

Government of South Australia
Department of State Development

Mining Act 1971

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 28 (5) of the *Mining Act 1971,* that the Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy proposes to grant Exploration Licences over the undermentioned areas.

Applicant:	Blackfire Resources Pty Ltd and Wentworth Metal Group Pty Ltd
Location:	Wilkowie Area – approx. 70 km southeast of Marree
Pastoral Lease:	Mount Lyndhurst
Term:	One year
Area in km²:	351
Ref:	2011/00083
Applicant:	Blackfire Resources Pty Ltd and Wentworth Metal Group Pty Ltd
Location:	Mundowdna Area – approx. 20 km southeast of Marree
Pastoral Leases:	Marree, Mundowdna, Witchelina
Term:	One year
Area in km²:	390
Ref:	2011/00084
Applicant:	Blackfire Resources Pty Ltd and Wentworth Metal Group Pty Ltd
Location:	Mount Bray Area – approx. 100 km north of Coober Pedy
Pastoral Leases:	Evelyn Downs, Mount Barry, Arckaringa
Term:	One year
Area in km²:	291
Ref:	2011/00085
Applicant:	Macallum Group Ltd
Location:	Lambina Area – approx. 75 km northeast of Marla
Pastoral Leases:	Tieyon, Lambina, Hamilton, Todmorden
Term:	One year
Area in km²:	987
Ref:	2014/00275
Applicant:	South Australian Coal Limited
Location:	Lake Phillipson Area – approx. 60 km southwest of Coober Pedy
Pastoral Leases:	Mabel Creek, Ingomar, Commonwealth Hill
Term:	Five years
Area in km²:	1367
Ref:	2015/00066
Applicant:	Minotaur Operations Pty Ltd
Location:	Nuckulla Area – approx. 140 km northeast of Streaky Bay
Pastoral Leases:	Lake Everard, Kondoolka
Term:	Two years
Area in km²:	692
Ref:	2015/00074
Applicant:	Minotaur Operations Pty Ltd
Location:	Glyde Area – approx. 155 km northeast of Streaky Bay
Pastoral Lease:	Lake Everard
Term:	Two years
Area in km²:	878
Ref:	2015/00075

Plans and co-ordinates can be found on the Department of State Development website: http://www.minerals.statedevelopment.sa.gov.au/public_notices or by phoning Mineral Tenements on 08 8463 3103.

J Martin
Mining Registrar

5048810 www.statedevelopment.sa.gov.au

Coober Pedy REGIONAL TIMES

15 May 2015

BUDGET: $575 million for local governments under Financial Assistance Grants programme

LOCAL governments around the country are set to receive a $575 million boost today when the Australian Government makes the fourth quarterly round of payments under its four-year $9.3 billion the Financial Assistance Grants programme.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development Warren Truss said the $2.3 billion in funding delivered under the programme over 2014-15 alone will strengthen local communities and bolster economic growth.

"Local communities are the backbone of Australia and local governments are key to those communities' ongoing growth and prosperity," Mr Truss said.

"Financial Assistance Grants give councils the financial capacity to develop and implement plans to ensure the equitable provision of services and amenities.

"The programme helps deliver infrastructure, health, recreation, environmental and employment projects identified as priorities according to local needs.

"These projects range from local services to roads and parks, swimming pools and libraries.

"Funding under the Financial Assistance Grants programme is being extended to all local governments across Australia and comes with no strings attached – meaning money can be directed to priority local projects."

Mr Truss said as the closest tier of government to Australians, local governments play a critical role in maintaining and developing the social and economic fabric of regions.

"Financial Assistance Grants are an important means for the Australian Government to support this vital local work," he said.

"The Australian Government is prioritising the delivery of the infrastructure communities need to secure a prosperous future and recognises that investment starts at the local level."

Details of the Financial Assistance Grants allocations to councils are available at: http://www.regional.gov.au/local/assistance/index.aspx



BUDGET: New cost of living concession for pensioners

Pensioners, low-income earners and self-funded retirees holding a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card will receive up to $200 per year under a new cost of living concession announced by the State Government today.

The new concession is the first reform announced as part of the State Government's State Tax Review and is in direct response to the Abbott Government's failure to reinstate $30 million per year in funding it cut from pensioner concessions in South Australia.

Premier Jay Weatherill said the new cost of living concession, to come into effect on 1 July 2015, will enable about 205,000 households to put up to $200 towards their greatest needs, whether that is electricity, gas and water bills or council rates.

The new concession will replace the $190 council rate concession which only provided funding to pensioners, low-income earners and self-funded retirees who owned their own home.

"Eligibility for the new concession has been expanded to include pensioners and low-income earners who are tenants – that's 45,000 pensioners and low-income earners who will receive an extra $100 in their pocket each year."

	Outgoing council rate concession ($ p/a)	New cost of living concession ($ p/a)	Change ($ p/a)
Pensioners and low-income earners who own their own home	$190	$200	+ $10
Pensioners and low-income earners who are tenants	$0 (ineligible)	$100	+ $100
Self-funded retirees who hold a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card* who own their own home	$100	$100	No change
Self-funded retirees who hold a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card who are tenants	$0 (ineligible)	$100	+ 100

* Assumes recipients hold a State Seniors Card.

As a result of the new arrangements, self-funded retirees earning more than $51,500 a single or $82,400 a couple will not be eligible.

Similar to the outgoing council rate concession, the new cost of living concession is payable per household, not per individual.

The concessions will be paid to recipients in 2015-16 by cheque.

Payments are expected to be made to homeowners in about September this year and to tenants by early 2016.

Homeowners who currently receive the council rate concession will not need to apply separately for this concession.

Tenants will need to apply by 31 October 2015. Application forms for the concession will be available from 1 July 2015 by contacting the Concession Hotline on 1800 307 758.

As well as the new cost of living concession, pensioners and low-income earners are also eligible for State Government concessions for energy, medical heating and cooling, public transport, Emergency Services Levy and water/sewerage.

Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis said the new concession will cost the State Government $36.5 million per year. The council rate concession had cost $34 million per year.

The total amount of funding the State Government will now spend on concessions in 2015-16 is $280 million.

"In last year's State Budget we also increased the energy and the medical heating and cooling concession for pensioners by $50, which increased the maximum energy concession to $215 per annum."

State Government concessions $ p/a

Energy (incl. medical heating and cooling) **Up to $215**
Water (for home owner-occupier) **Min - $185 / Max - $295**
Water (for tenants) **Min - $120 / Max - $230**
Sewerage (for home owner-occupier) **$110**

New cost of living concession up to $200
Public transport (approved concession cards) About 50% of normal fare and free travel for seniors outside peak hours

For further information contact the Concessions Hotline on 1800 307 758.

BUDGET: A Better Deal for Country Students

Federal Member for Grey Rowan Ramsey has been a passionate advocate for Youth Allowance and is pleased the changes announced in the Budget are heading in the right direction.

"From Jan 1st 2016 the Family Actual Means Test and Family Assets Test will be removed from the eligibility for Youth Allowance meaning only parental income will be assessed," Mr Ramsey said. "This change will enable another 5,300 young people to qualify for Youth Allowance.

"It's recognition from the government that students from country areas do face bigger challenges in accessing higher education than those who live in the cities. These changes will enable many students whose families are asset rich but income poor, to qualify for Youth Allowance.

"In particular it removes the 'family farm' as a barrier to an equitable education and allows a fair go for small business operators who also have high assets and a lower income."

"This is a good step and I continue to work with a group of regional Coalition members to bring about further support for young people from regional and rural Australia who have to leave home to further their studies."

"The maintenance income test will also be removed where one partner receives income from child support and from July 2017 there will be further changes to the assessment of Child Support income.

"There are a number of other changes that will remove the loss of income that occurs when families lose Family Tax Benefit Part A and their children graduate to Youth Allowance."

Mr Ramsey said that the removal of the maintenance income will increase payments for a further 3,800 people.

"And coming on top of changes already announced mean 13,700 families with dependent children will receive higher payments of FTB Part A of approx. $43 per fortnight and 5,800 families will see an increase in the amount of the fortnightly payment due to an increase in the taper rate," Mr Ramsey said.

"The changes will also greatly reduce paperwork for families currently receiving and those applying for Youth Allowance and allow an easier transition from Family Tax Benefit to Youth Allowance depending on eligibility."

Coober Pedy REGIONAL TIMES

What's On in COOBER PEDY?

MONDAYS

Karate -Golf Club
6 - 7pm General Class
7 - 8pm Teenagers & Adults
karateclub.cp@gmail.com

Active Boys Group *3:15-5:00 ages 10 & up at the youth shed*

TUESDAYS

COOBER PEDY MULTICULTURAL FORUM - HACC PROGRAM

FREE TAI CHI CLASSES for over 65s Sit or stand for these gentle exercises. 1:15PM at Community Health

Please register: 8672 3299

Junior Football training 4pm – 5pm/5:30pm. All 4 teams to train together

Senior Football training 6pm

DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETINGS 3nd Tuesday each month at 7pm

AMBULANCE TRAINING 7.30pm Umoona Road. Every Tuesday except school holidays

WEDNESDAYS

MULTICULTURAL FORUM – HACC Program

Over 65s Gentle exercise class 9 AM at Golf Club
Please register – 8672 3299

THURSDAY

MULTICULTURAL FORUM – HACC Program

MOSIAC at the Italian Club for the over 65s - 1-4pm Please register: 8672 3299

KARATE -Golf Club. 6 - 7pm General Class. 7 - 8pm Teenagers & Adults. karateclub.cp@gmail.com

Junior Football training 4pm – 5pm/5:30pm. All 4 teams to train together

Senior Football training 6pm

GREEK HALL
7pm Charcoal BBQ & Salad
Every Thursday night

LITTLE MUSICIANS
10.00am—10.45am
Coober Pedy Area School Music Room
Caters for 3 to 5 year olds

FRIDAYS

Serbian Church Social Club, Dinner 6pm Fridays

COOBER PEDY MULTICULTURAL FORUM - HACC PROGRAM

Over 65s FREE TAI CHI CLASSES. Sit or stand for these gentle exercises. 1:15PM at Community Health

CP SHOOTERS CLUB
7pm Friday night Clay Target Shotgun

GREEK CLUB - Bingo 7.30 pm

CP Social Scrabble 7.30pm United Club . All skill levels welcome

AA 7pm Underground Catholic Church - Hutchison Street
Contact Geoff 0427646963

SATURDAYS

Mine Rescue Training (Alternate Saturdays)

CFS TRAINING - every second Saturday at 2pm
Need new members urgently

CP SHOOTERS CLUB
9am & 11am Saturday
Pistol: 20/20 and Dropdown Target Shoot

SUNDAYS

Golf (CP Golf Course)
Registration 12:00 -1.00
Tee off time 1:30

PLAY TIME
Catering for 0 to 5 year olds
2.00pm—3.30pm
School Gymnasium

Catacomb Church Service and Sunday School 9:30am Sunday. Bus pickup available. Ph 8672 5038

SUNDAYS

CRICKET AT OVAL
Saturday 7.00 pm and Sunday 9.30pm
Ph: Fernando 0437 739 447

Youth Shed 11-2 ages 8 & up

CP SHOOTERS CLUB
10am - Centrefire 100m and Shotgun Clay Target Shoot

Outback Events

July 2015

Yowah Opal Festival 17th - 19th July 2015

Oodnadatta Campdraft and Bronco Branding Saturday, July 18th 2015

August 2015

Coober Pedy Races & Gymkhana Saturday 8 August & Sunday 9 August 2015

William Creek Campdraft & Bronco Branding Saturday, August 22nd 2015

September 2015

Blinman Art Exhibition Saturday, 12th September 2015 - Saturday 3rd October 2015

October 2015

Blinman Gymkhana Saturday, October 17th 2015...

"What's On?"

Email

cptimes@ozemail.com.au

or telephone 86725920

National Day of Thanksgiving

Saturday 30th May

Thank God….. Thank Each Other

FREE THANKSGIVING CONCERT

11am at the Rotunda near Catholic Church to say a huge THANK YOU to all in Coober Pedy



Sponsored by Combined Churches

Performances by: School Students & locals and words of thanks to all who make the town what it is—that is YOU.

Followed by BBQ & ice cream.

Contacts—Prudie Clark (Ph.0488 626 229)
Tracey Piggott (Ph.8672 5038)

COOBER PEDY DRIVE-IN THEATRE

The Coober Pedy Historical Society

Invites YOU

to share with us, an evening of Coober Pedy history at the Drive-In on Saturday 23 May

The gate opens at 6.30 pm, Movies start at 7 pm

The free programme features :

*** The Opal Cave Dwellers c. 1942**
*** Opal Vista Boulevard c. 1971**
*** The Boy from Coober Pedy c. 1972**
*** Jackpot Town c. 1971**

Tea/coffee /cake /biscuits available for a gold coin donation



Scene from The Opal Cave Dwellers, c 1942

Coober Pedy REGIONAL TIMES

Charlie Paris

MOTHER'S DAY!

Mother's Day was a few weeks ago now. I couldn't talk about it before because EmDee and I were planning a very special surprise day for our mum.



EmDee reflects on motherhood and Mother's Day while out looking for flowers for our mum

Dad usually organises the Mother's Day breakfast and dinner to give mum a rest. However this year EmDee and I begged him to let us organise it!

We promised not to make a mess and to have everything ready on time.

The first part of our plan was to let mum have a sleep in.

EmDee was so excited about mother's day. EmDee was up at 5am, she hassled me until I got out of bed. Dad helped us by leaving out all the ingredients for pancakes. We needed to mix the ingredients together and cook them. So simple! I have seen my mum do it a thousand times. I take great care to watch every step of the procedure. Everyone who has ever made pancakes knows the first one is a throw away, or in our house, the dog pancake.

There is no pre made pancake mix in our house. We make pancakes from scratch.

I asked EmDee to put 5 cups of flour into a bowl. This was (maybe) my first mistake. I think in the end we got about 3 cups of flour into the actual bowl the rest was covering the bench and floor. Readjusting the recipe for 3 cups of flour, we added the eggs.

EmDee put the eggs in the bowl with the shell still on. NO! NO! EmDee the egg needs to come out of the shell. How she says to me? Crack them EmDee! When I saw her sitting on the eggs I decided it was time to find a new job for her. I sent EmDee out to find some flowers for the breakfast tray.

I mixed up the batter for the pancakes and all was looking good.

EmDee came back with something that looked like dead weeds. With no time to find more, they will have to do. Surprisingly time was going fast. From our early start it was nearly time to serve breakfast. EmDee insisted that she should cook the pancakes. I heated the frypan and EmDee started to flick pancake batter all over the kitchen. The batter was added to the flour on the floor. There was batter on the light fixture, which cooked onto the light and smelt wonderful. And to this day I will never know how she did it; there was batter on the toilet seat. The toilet is 2 rooms away from the kitchen.

It was a disaster. There was more batter on the floor than in the pan. EmDee, was covered with batter. She was laying in the sink trying to lick the batter off and taking her time about it. I said "get a move on" she said "but it tastes so good" We only managed to make one pancake and as we all know the first pancake out of the pan is the dog pancake, we stopped long enough to share it.

The kitchen looked like it had been snowing inside, there are lumps of batter everywhere. EmDee said don't worry about the batter she would have it for lunch.

Too late to organise croissants, cheese and fruit for breakfast. I was thinking French and romantic. We needed something now. Toast I said, we can make toast.

EmDee said she had made toast with dad many times and she could handle that. What she meant was she helps dad eat his toast every morning. She pressed a few buttons on the toaster and popped the bread in. Then she confessed she had no idea what to do next. I told her to push the lever down. What's a lever she said? The big thing on the right side I told her. What's the right side she said? This, the side with the big shiny button that goes down. I was over all of these questions. I pushed it down myself.

When it popped up, Emdee, thinking she was clever pushed it down again. While I was getting the tray together she pushed the lever down again and again. She was very happy she had learnt a new trick, until the smoke detector when off.

Dad was out of bed first and ran into the kitchen to see burnt toast smoke and pancake batter and flour everywhere. He opened doors and called out to mum not to come up everything was OK.

Rest and relaxation is what you need today, "Please don't come anywhere near the kitchen", he called out to mum.

EmDee said, "Mum can have a soak in the bathtub and read a good book, while we clean up!" I remembered there is that mysterious batter on the toilet and then I remembered we don't have a bathtub.

Dad said "Go tell mum you two are taking her for a walk" while he cleaned up. He would get some brunch together for us all. Brunch is the meal you eat instead of breakfast and lunch. It's a late breakfast and an early lunch. This could be my favourite meal time of all.



EmDee had a chat with her kids Boi and Neeki on Mothers Day

After our walk we all sat down to a wonderful brunch. EmDee and I made plans to plant some flowers for next years mothers day. In the afternoon us girls laid on the lounge and watched a girly movie. There were lots of hugs and kisses for mum as well.



Charlie Paris, Dog Reporter
(charlie-paris@hotmail.com)

EmDee is a mother as well.

EmDee rang her children in the afternoon as they have moved away from Coober Pedy. She misses them, but as your children grow up they need to make their way in life.

We rang Nana Joan and had a chat with her and Nana M to say we love you and miss you.

To my mum and all the mothers in the world, everyday should be mother's day and every day should be special.

WE LOVE YOU MUM

EmDee and I were going to make dinner for us all, but dad said NO!!!!! He said take away would be cheaper than rebuilding the kitchen.

Time to start planning for Father's Day I think.

Woof Woof
Charlie Paris

Coober Pedy REGIONAL TIMES

MOTHER'S DAY ON THE GOLF COURSE

The Opal Fields Golf Club has always been a great family venue with it's attractive location, unique 'greens' and it's ability to attract all age groups who pride themselves on eventually conquering what is probably the most difficult 18 holes in the world.

The Mother's Day celebration is only held once per year for our precious mums. This year the golf club hosted the opportunity for mums to be pampered with a leisurely game of golf (Ambrose), top balmy, autumn weather and a sit down BBQ catered for by the golf club volunteers. Let's hope the Mother's Day observance grows into a regular and rewarding social occasion in the years to come.

Results for Mothers Day Golf
Longest drive
Men's - Mark
Ladies - Denise
Juniors - Jake

Nearest to pin
Damien

Team results for 3 hole ambrose competition
1st - 13 shots
Team 2 - Steve Jake, Bob, Chris, Damien
2nd - 14 shots
Team 3 - Denise, John, John, Renata, Nigel
3rd - 16 shots
Janet, Judy, Pearl, Chevahn, Mark, Mitchell, Gemma



Team 3 John & Denise, Nigel & Renata and John stop for a short break before heading back for the BBQ



Mitchell deciding where he wants the ball to land

Photos: CPRT



Team 1: Chevahn, Mitchell, Pearl, Janet, Mark and Judy at the putting stage

Below: Janet's colourful trousers won her a Desert Rose on the day



Above: A Desert Rose for the colourful Denise



Gemma mastering the T-off using portable grass





Above: Steve and Chris from the winning team

GOLF CLUB HELPS TO CELEBRATE VOLUNTEER WEEK WITH SOCIAL DAY

Great day! 14 golfers played the 9 hole ambrose and about 30 people attended the dinner in celebration of volunteers in the SES, CFS and SA Ambulance.

Thanks to SA Ambulance for sponsoring the day for all emergency services members!

Results for Emergency Services Golf Day 17th May 2015

Nearest to pin in 2 shots - Martin Grava
Nearest to pin - Bob Martin
Longest Drive - Nigel Wayne



Winning Team 9 hole ambrose competition
Luke Kenny, Dave Bowman, John Eastern and Martin Grava,(not in photo)

The club championship starts next week.
Registrations from 12:30 and tee off from 1pm.

John's Pizza Bar & Restaurant

NATIONAL WINNER - I LOVE FOOD AWARDS 2010
Best National Pizza

Open 7 days 9am -10pm
10% Discount for Pensioners

- Alfresco dining,Takeaway
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- INTERNET ACCESS for tourists
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