



COOBER PEDY'S 35th OPAL FESTIVAL SIGNALS A FUTURE THREE DAY EVENT



The 35th Opal Festival was a great success achieving all the goals the Opal Festival Committee set out including the extension of our Festival into what will now become a three day event. Isn't that what we wanted?

To unite our community, to celebrate Opal and the role it plays in our lives, to provide a platform to exhibit pride in our businesses, retail and tourist operators. Above all to encourage travellers to see and experience Coober Pedy as a destination and not a stop-over.

This year we saw strong support from other groups and Associations which added context to the all inclusive theme a community like Coober Pedy needs.

We had no monies from SA Tourism this year, so our 35th Opal Festival was produced on less money than other years. This, as well a free entry, did not restrict the record amount of stall holders or participants. Every stall holder the committee surveyed was extremely positive and most came away with a good experience and a profit. With over 1200 people visiting the oval it is a great result. The spectacular fireworks sponsored by EDL saw the longest show ever.

We are sending out messages to all the sponsors who not only provided funding but volunteers. Peak Mines fantastic contribution in assisting the Opal Festival. BHP, a herculean effort with over 12 volunteers, they did their company proud. District Council CEO and works department, we could not have done this without you. We salute Brian, Nick and Aaron for their ever-presence and assistance.

SAPOL assisted us in many ways and accommodated the festivals needs. Maria and Chevahn always put their hands up, we salute you! Margaret Mackay from the Coober Pedy Regional Times who endlessly promoted, and balanced the meetings with her true love of Coober Pedy.

Thank you to EDL, McArdles Freight, Johns Pizza Bar, IGA, Outback Mail Run, The Old Timers Mine, Oasis Caravan Park, Lookout Cave, Ampol, Allusive Services, Opalios, Red Dirt, Big Winch, Home Hardware, Arid Areas Accounting, Bulovic Mining, The Underground Motel, CK Confectionaire, Umoona Community, Outback Bar and Grill, MTE, Big 4, Comfort Inn, Jills Wearhouse and Tracey Dewell Website Designs.

As we prepare our acquittals to our sponsors and debrief this event, we will soon prepare a questionnaire on next years festival: On the preferred time e year, the shape our members want this event to take; either carnival atmosphere down the main street or create an opal selling event combined? We have had strong feedback already, so the thoughts of our members and supporters will be canvased.

To many other businesses and individuals who physically helped, our deepest gratitude. You all showed that Coober Pedy continues to be a Can-Do town.

Once again on behalf of the Opal Festival committee we thank you all.

Kind regards
George Kountouris (Chair)



The 2024 Coober Pedy Opal Festival Committee consisting of both long term business owners and residents, along with newer participants, meeting weekly in the months leading up to the 35th Opal Festival



The first event of the 2024 Opal Festival was the Opening Dinner at The Big Winch 360. Pictured above are guests arriving for dinner.



The Opening Dinner honoured the Festival sponsors. A highlight on the evening was the outdoor heating pits and other burners.



Opal Festival Committee Member John Di Donna with the Peak Iron visitors (Sponsors)



Guests enjoying the outdoor setting with music to please everyone. Rowan Ramsey catches up with the Peak Iron crew in the background

SERVING THE OPAL CAPITAL OF THE WORLD SINCE 1982

ABOUT US

The annual rainfall in the area is around 162 mm | 6.4 inch per year.

The CPRT newspaper first became DIGITAL/ ONLINE in 2006 as well as hardcopy. Although online is now the main trend, hard copies are still printed locally.

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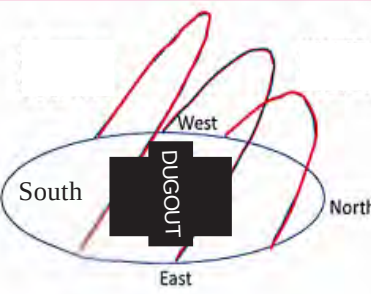
<https://cooberpedytimes.com/>

MAILING LIST

Send an email to be included on emailing list

7 DAYS WEATHER at COOBER PEDY Oodnadatta Tarcoola Andamooka Roxby Downs

	MON Jun 24	TUE Jun 25	WED Jun 26	THU Jun 27	FRI Jun 28	SAT Jun 29	SUN Jun 30							
Summary	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Sunny	Windy	Rain	Possible shower							
Maximum	18°C	18°C	19°C	23°C	24°C	19°C	19°C							
Minimum	6°C	6°C	3°C	6°C	10°C	13°C	10°C							
Chance of Rain Likely Amount	5% < 1mm	5% < 1mm	5% < 1mm	5% < 1mm	90% 1-5mm	80% 1-5mm	50% < 1mm							
UV Index	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate							
Frost Risk	Nil	Nil	Moderate	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil							
	9am 3pm	9am 3pm	9am 3pm	9am 3pm	9am 3pm	9am 3pm	9am 3pm							
Wind Speed	19km/h W	24km/h WSW	19km/h WNW	27km/h WNW	10km/h NNW	15km/h N	19km/h NE	25km/h NNE	33km/h NE	37km/h NNE	17km/h NNE	21km/h NW	19km/h WSW	21km/h SW



2024 Equinox and Solstice Dates in Australia

Winter Solstice. 0° of Cancer
21 June 2024. AWST 4.50am.
ACST 6.20am. ...

Local Scribes

MARGARET MACKAY News Reporter resident and Coober Pedy Ratepayer has been the Editor of CPRT since 2005 and a volunteer contributor since the mid 1990s, covering general news stories, photography, advertising and the coordinating of community contributions.



Margaret Mackay
Editor

JOHN DI DONNA was raised in the South Australian Outback and is a long term resident of Coober Pedy. As a business person John is a regular, commuter along the Far North and Flinders highways and byways, covering the entire Far North & East and Outback.



John Di Donna
Opinion & Commentary

GEORGE KOUNTOURIS is a 2nd Generation Opal Miner/Retailer and President of Coober Pedy Retail, Business & Tourism Association. George will provide regular updates for business and tourism in our area



Pres. CRBTA
Opal Miner/Trader

The Coober Pedy Regional Times Newspaper"

CPRT became a FREE Newspaper in 2006 and increased its distribution to 5,000 hard copies + and at the same time provided a Free Online Digital Newspaper, to accommodate the new digit era. Distribution covers tourists and nearby communities and towns, social media, website and mailing list. The CPRT receives no external funding.

A local newspaper is the voice of the people. A truly free and independent press is a vital component of any healthy democratic society. [...] the prime value of journalism is that it imposes transparency, and thus accountability, on those who wield the greatest governmental and corporate power. ~ Glenn Greenwald, Laura Poitras and Jeremy Scahill

Four pillars of Democracy are
LEGISLATIVE : The body which makes laws for the state.
EXECUTIVE : Executes and enforces laws.
JUDICIARY : Works to protect laws.
PRESS/MEDIA : The 4th estate of democracy. It informs the public
'Media releases' may be submitted however there is no obligation on the newspaper to publish any part of it. Media releases are generally one sided so comments may, (or may not) be extracted and used in a related article.

CPRT does not provide free space for political or business advertising.

Letters to Editor should be sent by email where possible and must be relevant to the community. Potentially defamatory comments will be edited or deleted. Letters to Editor need to be signed, but a pen name can be published.

1.) GROUPS & SPONSORSHIP

You or your group may wish to send a News Article. Aim for a 300 - 500 word story in plain text and a suitable photo/s.

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 clubs or community programs is by arrangement

5.) Names and Captions must accompany photos + DO NOT REDUCE PHOTOS

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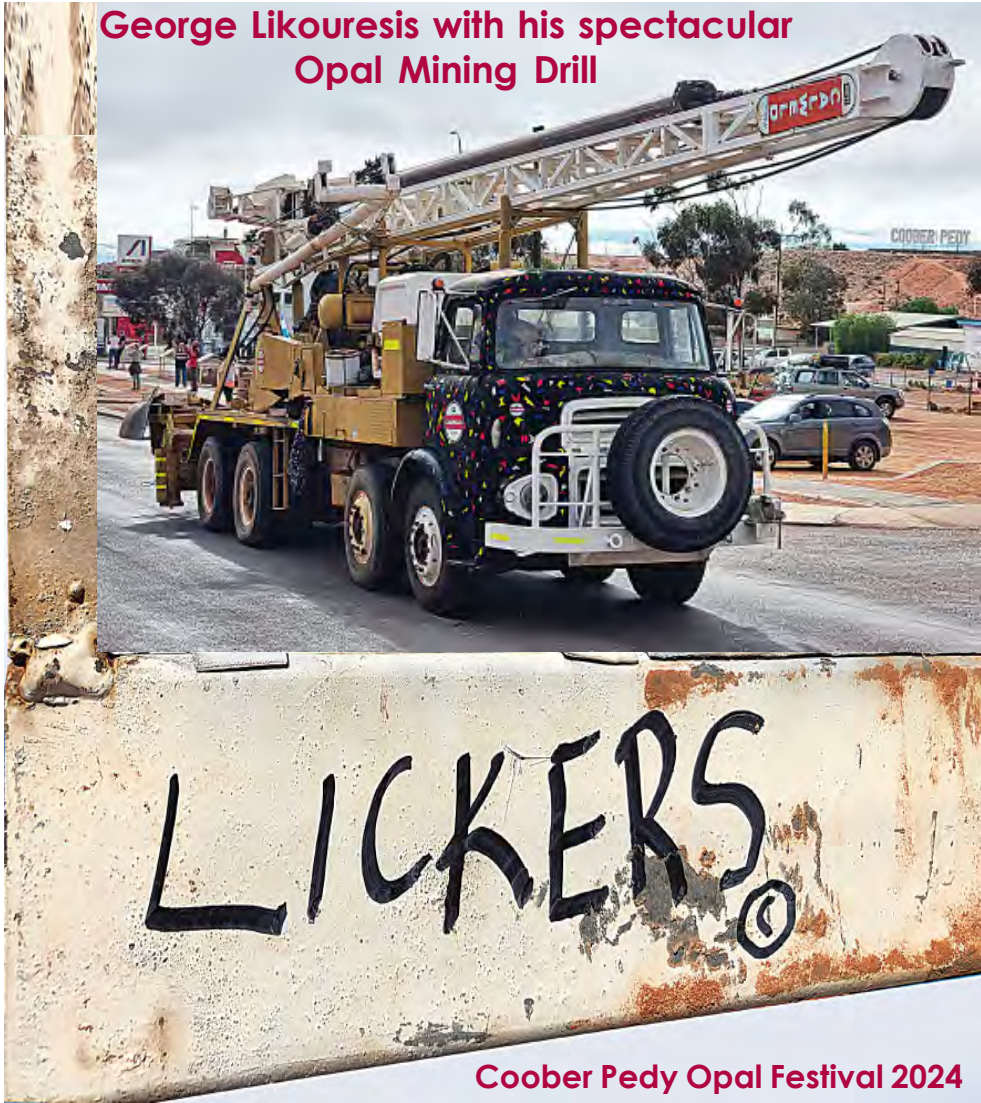
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Page 2

Coober Pedy Regional Times

Friday 21 June 2024



**George Likouresis with his spectacular
Opal Mining Drill**

Coober Pedy Opal Festival 2024

Opal Mining talk



- Congratulations to all the opal miners who took part in the Opal Festival Parade! So many travellers impressed by the show of unity. And underlying that; hey guys guess what?; the Opal Capital of the World is still mining for opal!
- The Inaugural Blacklight Evening with Leon was heavily booked by tourists. This emphasises the importance of setting up a real black lighting area close to town, but in our opal fields, to add a much needed genuine but safe, opal related attraction for tourists or retirees who may be considering a return to productivity.
- A few Opal Miners are claiming that Indian opal buyers are trying to bring down opal prices by not purchasing, or abstaining from offering a price to the parcels they view. This is an old trick practised by the Hong Kong buyers in the 70s and 80s.
- White base opal miners are heading south to Opal Valley and Opal Ridge where the opal is fine and the living is easy.
- An anomaly that is irritating many of us opal miners is: We are not permitted to stay overnight on our claims to protect our opal nor set up a caravan for shelter in the heat or sleet, ...YET, a private business can serve alcohol and dine on the Precious Stones Opal Fields well into the night, without any transparency or known requirements for safety under those circumstances.

If individuals or another private entity wanted to set up a series of dining areas or canteens on the Precious Stones Opal Fields for miner's and local convenience, what would be the process? Would those in the know please provide details?



Active Claims as at the 7 June 2024
Andamooka - 149
Coober Pedy - 447
Mintabie - 13
Stuart Creek - 1

There have been appx 1100 NEW PSPP applicants since 2014

**Wardens Court Circuits
29th - 31st July 2024**

Coober Pedy Opal Festival 2024



Bulovic Mining Company - the big boys came out to play



**Winner of the DONATED \$5,000 OPAL
was
Brian Lamont**





Federal Member, Rowan Ramsey MP Opens Coober Pedy's 35th Opal Festival

The Federal Member for Grey, Rowan Ramsey was in Coober Pedy for the 2024 Opal Festival weekend and delighted to open the 35th Opal Festival on Saturday.

Mr Ramsey addressed the crowd, congratulating President George Kountouris and the Coober Pedy Retail, Business and Tourism Association on their efforts in facilitating the event.

"I am proud of Coober Pedy", Mr Ramsey said "the people of Coober Pedy, people who have come from all over the world know if they want something done, they need to roll up their sleeves and work together, and they do. Coober Pedy is a can-do community."

Earlier Mr Ramsey had visited a number of businesses in the main street. He said types of issues raised were similar to the rest of the electorate; cost of living, electricity prices, water prices, insurance costs and a general feeling they were being ignored by government despite their role in providing export income for Australia and attracting international tourists.

Mr Ramsey and his wife Teresa also attended the Opening Dinner at the Big Winch 360 the previous night. Rowan addressed the dinner guests, thanking the Committee for the Invitation, and mingling with the guests getting a feel for the current climate in the town.

President of the Coober Pedy Retail, Business & Tourism Association George Kountouris said, "Rowan Ramsay has served the largest Federal Electorate in the South Australian Seat of Grey for 17 years straight. Such dedication to the Outback and regional areas has been a commendable feat."

"Since 2007 Rowan Ramsey has ensured that this remote part of the country has a voice in Canberra and his presence reminds us that we are not forgotten after all. We thank Rowan and Teresa for attending the Opal festival and visiting our businesses and operators. Coober Pedy welcomes them with open arms always; thank you both."



Andy West formerly of Coober Pedy, and wife Suzy chat with Rowan and Teresa



Rowan and Teresa Ramsey buying souvenirs at the Coober Pedy Shooters Club Stall



Rowan Ramsay MP, Federal Member for Grey, opening the 35th Coober Pedy Opal Festival on Saturday



George Cooley Umoona Community; George Kountouris CPRBTA and Rowan Ramsay MP at the morning Opening of the OPAL Festival at the Coober Pedy Oval.



Right: Rowan at the Coober Pedy Opal Festival speaking with a group of security guards. Aaron Nagy, Roger Boland, Des Fisher and Peter Wadell.

Rowan Ramsey called into the Opal Cave and found Trevor Berry on duty. Rowan visited many of the retails business for a chat on 'current affairs'



Rowan and Teresa Ramsey at Coober Pedy in May 2007 in the lead up to the 24 November 2007 Federal elections where Rowan became the Member for Grey, a position that he has held for 17 years. Previous Member for Grey was Barry Wakelin. Grey has been known as a safe Liberal Seat, however both members were regular visitors to Coober Pedy and the Far North. Rowan recently announced his pending retirement from politics at the next elections.



COOBER PEDY CRIME REPORT

06/6/2024 – 21/06/2024

ARRESTS OVER OPAL HEIST

13 Jun 2024 11:02am. Two men faced court last week charged over the theft of hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of opals from a Coober Pedy business.

It will be alleged that a Coober Pedy business was broken into over the long weekend and opals, cash and jewellery were stolen from a safe.

Following investigations, Coober Pedy Police allegedly identified the suspects.

Two local men, aged 33 and 22, were arrested and charged with aggravated serious criminal trespass, property damage and theft. They were refused police bail and will appear in the Coober Pedy Magistrates Court today.

Investigations are continuing to locate the outstanding suspects and recover the stolen items.

Anyone with information that may assist the investigation is asked to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or online at www.crimestopperssa.com.au CO2400022223

MIMILI INCIDENT - CAR FIRE AND ASSAULT

21 Jun 2024 11:24am Police are investigating a car fire and an alleged assault in the Far North yesterday.

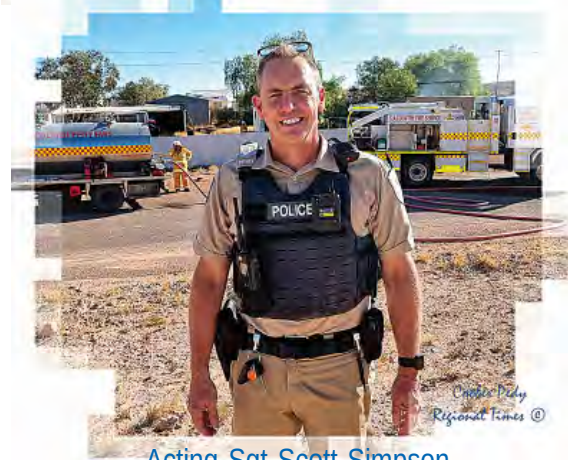
About 12.15pm on Friday 21 June, emergency services were called to a house in Mimili after reports of a car on fire.

CFS crews arrived on scene and were met by the resident and owner of the car, a 38-year-old man, who allegedly behaved in an aggressive manner towards the CFS member, whilst in possession of a pair of scissors.

A CFS member, a 63-year-old local man, allegedly punched the resident resulting in facial injuries.

The injured party was flown to Alice Springs Hospital where he was treated.

Anyone with further information is asked to contact Crime Stoppers. You can anonymously provide information to Crime Stoppers online at <https://crimestopperssa.com.au> or free call 1800 333 000.



Acting Sgt Scott Simpson

13/6 - Victim states that between 1645hrs and 1650hrs an unknown person/s have gained entry to his unlocked vehicle whilst parked on Hutchison st. There has been nil damage to the vehicle. There has been a theft of a drivers license and a medicare card.

16/6 - Victim around 0330 hrs unknown offender/s have stolen a Samsung Galaxy A15 valued \$400.00 on Hutchison St. Nil suspects/witnesses

OPINION

WHO PAYS THE PIPER?

On the 22nd of May 2024 the Coober Pedy Council led a posse of followers to Government House. The actual reason for the trip apart from being a timely stunt, is not clear to anyone. The cost imposed on the ratepayers is not mentioned. This is consistent with most messages coming from council in recent times.

These geniuses decided to go on a 'jolly' not just one or two, but forty, to simply meet the governor general. A position that has no real power, and no say in anything that happens in Coober Pedy. So, to what avail?

The fact is that the Coober Pedy Council is broke, by their own continued mismanagement. Bankrupt, skint does not appear to register with city civil servants, as their salaries or wages will enter their bank accounts no matter what. Unlike the rate payer who has to endure 10 per cent increase (TAX) in power and water and despite being in a low income area, have the second highest rateable value in South Australia!

Transparency is a one way mirror in this group of administrators. This is more than evident in the latest annual accounts. These figures are designed to be VAGUE. They are impossible to make any sense out of.

Please view Council's latest figures on line. We are currently in a consultation period.
<https://www.cooberpedy.sa.gov.au/latest-news-events/public-consultation>

12 million dollars for expenses and contracts!



As for the 'jolly' in the city, who paid for these people? Airplane charter, motel rooms, food, return trips, salaries for absentee public servants and NGOs and others in the 'rent a crowd' group. What was the total cost to the rate payer? **The council was closed for 24 hours, or was it more?**

This is shameful that ratepayers and businesses were not consulted nor informed of costs let alone rationale of such an extravagant waste of anyone's money and time.

The state government needs to wake up to this blatant wastefulness in the face of maladministration invoked administration; and their own persistence in hiring (in our view) unqualified, incompetents who meddle with our town. Stop sending us tired civil servants who hire expensive consultants to change our 'direction', our events, our way of life. Please try and treat the whole state equally despite the voting imbalance.

The latest annual figures do not show the legal fees that are allegedly over \$1M pursuing a rate payer whom this town believes, complied with Whistleblower & ICAC Laws. A baton being passed down like a poison chalice.

I challenge the council to make public the true costs in their annual financial presentation, and any cost to ratepayers on the recent Adelaide 'jolly' and the reason for such a futile exercise while our ratepayers are being deprived of services and quality of life?

George Kountouris Opal Miner, Ratepayer, Business Owner

NEW REVIEW FOR A SUSTAINABLE COOBER PEDY

The State Government will fund a review of services and assets in Coober Pedy, answering calls for support from administrators of the local council.

As part of a regular report provided to the Minister for Local Government earlier this year, administrators for the District Council of Coober Pedy expressed a need for support to establish solid foundations for a sustainable local governing body.

The administrators recommended that an audit be undertaken to examine the services that Council is currently providing, the costs of those services and any potential improvements that could assist Council to live and operate within its means.

State Government funding will also help Council work with its community to understand what services can be provided with the rates available.

The Council reported it is also struggling to meet other needs and obligations in relation to asset management, which have arisen due to poor practice over many years.

The funding will help council to complete a thorough asset management plan, with the aim of creating a future-proof and sustainable regime for maintenance and care.

In September 2022, the administration period for Council was extended until the next local government elections in 2026.

In March 2023, three administrators were appointed to ensure that a locally elected and governed body can be responsibly returned to the Coober Pedy community.

Additionally, the Coober Pedy Taskforce is currently considering options for the future delivery and governance of essential services in Coober Pedy.

Minister for Local Government Joe Szakacs said, "The State Government is committed to finding a way forward so that the Coober Pedy community can have the sustainable local governance that other regional communities have.

While there is still significant work required to ensure the town can be locally governed, our support for a service review and asset management plan is an important step towards future stability for the Council.

We have listened to the administrators' request for support for critical work to ensure that the current and future Council – and the Coober Pedy community – fully understand what services can be provided with the available rates.

Chair of the Coober Pedy Retail Business and Tourism Association George Kountouris said, "We thank the new Minister for Local Government Joe Szakacs for his willingness to take on the complex role that former Minister Geoff Brock needed to step back from."

"That the administrators cannot manage on our lean budget is no surprise. Their billionaire style spending is noted in

their reckless use of our money on legal and unnecessary consultants while our essential services crumble. This does not suit our remote town, and it must cease. The call for an audit in my view is an excuse for current failure."

"There has been no apology for the failures to date. We should not be allowing any politicians to recommend administrator appointment, or to shoulder-tap people well known to them."

"It is not clear how the 3 administrators will "ensure" that Coober Pedy can be responsibly returned to a locally elected body, when the very cause of administration still exists. The primary administrator only confers with a small clique and his city offside. Generally, the town has no confidence in the current, nontransparent administration whom most residents have never seen, met or heard from. This is a dictatorship, is it not? The expense and effort to 'manage' (and divide) our community and our social activities is surely a government condoned experiment? This must also cease!

"Businesses and tourism operators are all experiencing a down-turn and now have to wear the "sneaked through" increases to prop up the councils balance sheet. There are many issues that face remote area businesses that need strong administrative management and local understanding, yet all the state government is proposing is another futile investigation."

"As a community we need access to the so far invisible 'Coober Pedy Taskforce'. Our Association (CPRBTA) will meet very soon to discuss these incredible revelations (5 years on), and put forward our recommendations."

COOPER PEDY OPAL FESTIVAL 2024 SILVER SPONSORS



Cooper Pedy thanks you



Tax cuts for every taxpayer

Estimate yours with the tax cut calculator.



TAX CUTS

1 JULY 2024

Calculate yours at taxcuts.gov.au



Australian Government

Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra

AUSTRALIAN OPAL CENTRE



AUSTRALIAN OPAL TOUR 2024

25 September – 4 October 2024

<https://www.australianopalcentre.com/opaltour>

ITINERARY

Tuesday 24 September	Evening meet and greet in Sydney NSW
Wednesday 25 September	Fly Sydney to Lightning Ridge NSW
Thursday 26 September	Lightning Ridge and surrounding opal fields
Friday 27 September	Lightning Ridge and surrounding opal fields
Saturday 28 September	Fly Lightning Ridge to Winton Qld
Sunday 29 September	Winton opal fields
Monday 30 September	Fly Winton to Cooper Pedy SA
Tuesday 1 October	Cooper Pedy opal fields
Wednesday 2 October	Fly Cooper Pedy to White Cliffs NSW. Visit opal fields
Thursday 3 October	Fly White Cliffs to Sydney NSW

Every endeavour will be made to adhere to the proposed timetable. If circumstances outside our control, such as weather, cause some activities to change, there will be fun alternatives.

Email register@australianopalcentre.com to receive more information as tour details are finalised. Places are strictly limited and participants will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.



OPAL FESTIVAL “BLACKLIGHTING EXTRAVAGANZA” FUNDRAISER FOR CFS IS WELCOMED BY BRIGADE

This year the Coober Pedy Opal Festival Committee, advertised widely for community sponsors, as well as volunteers. Volunteer give so much of their time to ensuring that our community is safe and protected, others provide endless services to the community through their associations, free of charge.

Where possible volunteer groups were able to receive proceeds from events as in the Camp Oven Event, the \$5,000 Opal Raffle and the Friday night Blacklighting Extravaganza facilitated by Leon Stafford of Coober Pedy.

Leon runs a Blacklight Rental Service called Coober Tech that allows tourists to get a taste of opal fever, by blacklighting in our safe, public noodling area in town.

Leon provided over 20 blacklights, picks, headlamps, high viz vests, and safety glasses and also gave each participant a gift of a common opal sample. He also gave everyone a free keychain blacklight so they could continue to enjoy fluorescing their treasures once they arrived home.

On Saturday 22 June at CFS HAZMAT training the members of the Brigade extended their gratitude to Leon for his generous efforts in raising \$500 for the Coober Pedy CFS from the Opal Festival Friday Night Blacklighting Extravaganza Event. Acting Captain Jeremy Lambert presented Leon with a certificate of appreciation for his generosity.

Those interested in Blacklighting for Opal are encouraged to contact Leon at 0473 044 147.

Additionally, anyone interested in joining the CFS is welcome to visit on a Wednesday night or reach out to Jeremy at Jeremy.lambert@sacfsvolunteer.org.au



Above: Firefighter Leon Stafford accepts an Appreciation Certificate from Acting Captain of the Coober Pedy CFS Jeremy Lambert, for his fundraising efforts in conjunction with the Coober Pedy Opal Festival Committee over the Festival Weekend recently.

COOBER PEDY OPAL FESTIVAL BLACKLIGHTING EXTRAVAGANZA



Excited tourists at Coober Pedy search for opal using blacklights on the Friday evening of the Opal Festival

INAUGURAL

CAMP OVEN



EVENT

At precisely 1.30pm on Sunday afternoon of the weekend Opal Festival, the Camp Oven Cook off began. The three contenders for the MTE prizes were Dean Kenelly, Dawn Brown and Phil Gerschwitz. There would definitely be a 1st 2nd and 3rd. While many said they would enter the cookoff, a number of contestants didn't quite make it. Always next time.

We wish to thank the RSL (recipients) for the use of their venue, and definitely a big thank you to the fire brigade for standing by in case of an exploding Bedourie Oven. Never heard of it, but one never knows. Fortunately as any inaugural event, the organisers took copies. Welcome to our experiment!



Phil Gerschwitz was no stranger to the pots and pans



Dean Kenelly and Dawn Brown shared techniques

LETS COOK!

Managing the Camp Oven Event was seasoned Bushie, Dessi Fisher, well know in Station circles and a local resident at Coober Pedy. Dampers were taste tested, anonymously



Event Manager Dessi Fisher, with Camp Oven Winner Phil Gerschwitz



1st PRIZE Phil Gerschwitz, 2nd PRIZE Dean Kenelly, 3rd PRIZE Dawn Brown
 Congratulations everyone, we heard it was close!

Contestants shared their damper with supporters on hand who gave a gold coin donation per piece; all proceeds to the RSL.

A special THANK YOU to the three CFS volunteers for their presence and support on the day and the provision of a Fire Truck on standby.

PRIZES Sponsored by Mine Tech Engineering, Roxby Downs



1st, 2nd 3rd PRIZES
Yeti products

INGREDIENTS Sponsored by
OPAL DIRECT, COOBER PEDY

opal direct

New renal dialysis unit opens in Coober Pedy

TUESDAY 18 JUNE 2024. First Nations Australians with severe kidney disease will have better access to lifesaving treatment with the opening of a new Coober Pedy renal dialysis clinic.

The Coober Pedy clinic is the first to open under the current Federal Government’s \$73.2 million Better Renal Services for First Nations Peoples initiative.

First Nations adults are twice as likely as non-Indigenous Australians to have chronic kidney disease and almost 4 times as likely to die from chronic kidney disease.

Dialysis is essential, lifesaving treatment for patients with end stage kidney disease, which can otherwise only be treated by kidney transplant.

Providing dialysis treatment closer to a patient’s home increases the likelihood of regular treatment, continued support and care, while remaining on Country and connected to community and family.

The Coober Pedy clinic will see approximately eight patients per week with potential to increase to 16 at times of high demand.

Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation, also known as **Purple House**, will deliver the new services in Coober Pedy.

The Government’s \$73.2 million in funding includes up to 30 dialysis units, including workforce accommodation in SA, WA and the NT, providing life-saving health care to First Nations people with end-stage kidney disease.

Assistant Minister Malarndirri McCarthy said, “The Albanese Government is delivering on its election commitment to provide better access to lifesaving renal dialysis for First Nations people.”



Sarah Brown AM CEO Purple House, Senator, the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy and Dean Walker Coober Pedy, cut the ribbon after the speeches, opening the Coober Pedy Dialysis Clinic



Local Elder, Julie O'Toole (Auntie Julie) gave a moving Welcome to Country where she included Coober Pedy's broader multicultural people.

Photos: Coober Pedy Regional Times ©

“Dialysis saves lives. This new renal dialysis unit in Coober Pedy means people can stay on Country surrounded by family and get the essential, consistent treatment and care they need without having to travel vast distances.”

“This new dialysis unit will make a significant, positive difference to the lives of First Nations people in Coober Pedy while helping to Close the Gap.”

Sarah Brown AM, CEO, Purple House said, “On behalf of Purple House Directors and all our community leaders who have worked tirelessly to help people return home to family and Country whilst still receiving the very best care, we are incredibly happy to be opening dialysis in Coober Pedy today.”

“We thank the many community members, philanthropists, organisations, and the SA and Commonwealth governments for their help.”

“Most of all, to the family members of dialysis patients past and present from Coober Pedy who contacted Purple House and asked if we would come to talk to them about our community-controlled model of care...well done! You did it! This is just the start.”

Joe Morrison, Group Chief Executive Officer at the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation said, “The Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation is incredibly proud to have played a part in bringing Purple House’s Dialysis Centre in Coober Pedy to life.

“It’s fundamental that vital health care services, such as this centre, are able to be delivered in the heart of community no matter where they are located, to ensure those seeking access to health care services are able to stay on their Country and close to family.”



Mark Anderson Central Divisional Manager NT, SA, VIC, TAS, Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation Group



Ian Crombie (Port Augusta), Maurice Saah Principal Coober Pedy Area School, Michael Brown (Port Augusta)



Senator the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy, Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health



Right: Attendees at the opening of the Coober Pedy Dialysis Centre were welcomed with the opportunity to sit comfortably or stand and mingle. Hot food and refreshments were supplied by the Coober Pedy Bakery

Left: Kim Collard, Chair, Bibbulmun Fund Board



AMA warns over VAPES' toxic threat to our health, environment and future

With the Senate soon to consider the government vaping reforms, the AMA is urging all members of parliament to consider the health of the community and the environmental impact of vaping.

“If you care about the health of our children, and the health of our environment, then the choice is clear on vaping – support the reforms before the parliament,” AMA President Professor Steve Robson said.

“Anything less is a betrayal of a healthier, safer and cleaner future for our kids.”

Vaping in Australia has tripled since 2019, with a rise from 2.5 per cent to 7 per cent in 2022-2023, according to the National Drug Strategy Household Survey.

Professor Robson said vapes are an “environmental triple-threat” with plastic waste in the device body and pod, .

electronic waste in the form of lithium-ion batteries and a heating element, and hazardous waste due to the heavy metals in the vape and nicotine in the e-juice

“Vapes are classified as hazardous waste around the country but most vapes are being thrown away in the garbage, or worse – dumped as litter – which is terrible for the environment,” Professor Robson said.

“The plastic waste from the device body and pod never fully decomposes.”

Rather than decomposing, plastic turns into microplastics, or tiny pieces of plastic, which continue to pollute the environment and pollute our food and drinking water.

“The electronic waste or lithium-ion battery waste can corrode and the metals and chemicals – like lithium – leak into the ground, polluting the soil and water long into the future.

“Incorrectly disposed batteries can also cause fires in garbage trucks and landfills, which can harm people, animals and the land.

“We know liquid nicotine is also an acute hazardous waste that is toxic to humans if consumed.”

The AMA said material used to make vapes also comes at a cost to the environment with deforestation and destruction of habitats from mining for materials and carbon emissions from their manufacture and transport.

The National Drug Strategy Household Survey also found the use of e-cigarettes is more likely than smoking in areas more socioeconomic advantage.

“Anyone in parliament who is serious about looking after the environment cannot turn a blind eye to the environmental menace that vapes have become,” Professor Robson said.

New Consumer Affairs Commissioner Appointed

Former SafeWork SA head **Martyn Campbell** has been appointed as the new head of South Australia's consumer affairs watchdog, Consumer and Business Services.

With decades of experience in various regulatory roles, Mr Campbell takes up the reins of CBS at a time when the agency prepares to assume responsibility for the licensing and enforcement of the sale of tobacco and vape products.

In the course of a career spanning nearly four decades, Mr Campbell has worked as a Detective Inspector with both UK and South Australia Police, Workplace Ombudsman, Assistant Commissioner at the Australian Taxation Office and Executive Director of SafeWork SA.

His appointment follows the resignation of Dini Soulio earlier in the year to take up the role of Chief Executive of SuperSA. Mr Campbell will commence in the role late next week.

Minister for Consumer Affairs Andrea Michaels said, “Congratulations to Mr Campbell on his appointment as the new Consumer Affairs Commissioner.”

“He is taking the helm at an important time for the organisation as the State Government continues to make a number of important reforms including introducing a

Consumer and Business Services



Martyn Campbell has been appointed as the new Commissioner of South Australia's Consumer and Business Services



new CBS-led taskforce to crack down on illegal tobacco and vape products as well as progressing the independent investigation into the SkyCity Casino and overseeing the introduction of the most significant reforms to South Australia's rental laws in a generation and I look forward to working with him."

Caroline Mealar, Chief Executive of Attorney-General's Department said, "I am pleased to be able to appoint Martyn Campbell to this important role."

“His body of work speaks for itself - over the six years he led SafeWork SA, he was responsible for implementing significant change programs designed at strengthening the effectiveness of the workplace regulator.”

“He delivered major improvements to that agency’s investigatory capabilities, and has demonstrated a keen interest in delivering strong, effective services.”

Regular snoring could be bad for your heart

That loud snoring keeping you up at night could be more than a noisy annoyance - it could be an early warning sign of dangerous hypertension.

New research from Flinders University sleep experts found that people, particularly overweight middle-aged men, who regularly snore at night are more likely to have elevated blood pressure and uncontrolled hypertension.

The study, published in the prestigious *Nature Digital Medicine* journal is the largest objective study and the first to use multiple night home-based monitoring technologies over a prolonged period to explore the association between snoring and hypertension.

“For the first time, we can objectively say that there is a significant connection between regular nighttime snoring and high blood pressure,” says lead author Dr Bastien Lechat from the College of Medicine and Public Health.

“We found that 15 per cent of all participants in the study, who were primarily overweight men, snore for more than 20 per cent of the night on average and that this regular nightly snoring is associated with elevated blood pressure and uncontrolled hypertension,” says Dr Lechat.

“These results emphasise the significance of considering snoring as a factor in healthcare and treatment for sleep-related issues, especially in the context of managing hypertension.”

Snoring is a common occurrence, affecting a large percentage of the population, and is often underestimated in terms of its negative health implications. Snoring and sleep apnoea often overlap indicating shared common causes.



“We observed that in those who snore regularly the risk of having uncontrolled hypertension was almost double. This risk almost doubled again in people who snored regularly and had sleep apnoea versus those who did not snore regularly,” says Professor Danny Eckert, Director of Sleep Health at Flinders University and senior author of the paper.

Snoring alone may also serve as an early warning sign of high blood pressure, as poor sleep quality due to snoring may worsen the risk of hypertension.

Hypertension is the medical term for high blood pressure over a long period of time. It can lead to serious health problems such as heart failure, stroke, heart disease or kidney disease.

The study used sleep tracker data collected by an under-mattress sensor to detect snoring and sleep apnoea, along with an FDA-registered at home blood pressure monitor in more than 12,000 participants globally over a nine-month period.

“This is the largest study to date investigating the potential relationships between snoring, sleep apnoea and hypertension using objective assessments in people’s homes, and it reveals important insights into the potential consequences of snoring on hypertension risk,” says Dr Lechat.

“It also highlights the need to consider snoring as part of clinical care and management of sleep problems, particularly in the context of hypertension management.

"The findings of this study pave the way to further investigate whether therapeutic interventions directed toward snoring can reduce hypertension and reduce the risks associated with it," he adds.

If you experience snoring along with signs of inadequate sleep, excessive sleepiness or observed breathing issues during sleep, it's advisable to have a conversation with your doctor or a specialist who may recommend a sleep study.

The article, ‘Regular snoring is associated with uncontrolled hypertension’ by Bastien Lechat, Ganesh Naik, Sarah Appleton, Jack Manners, Hannah Scott, Duc Phuc Nguyen, Pierre Escourrou, Robert Adams, Peter Catcheside and Danny J. Eckert has been published in the journal Nature Digital Medicine DOI: 10.1038/s41746-024-01026-7

Acknowledgments: Dr Lechat and Professor Eckert are supported by National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) of Australia Fellowships.

With grateful thanks to Coober Pedy Opal Festival's 2024 Major Sponsors



A HEADSTONE FOR HARRY

In memory of Arvīds Blūmentāls, aka Crocodile Harry, 1925-2006.
By Ināra Strungs

Eighteen years after his death, Coober Pedy identity Crocodile Harry finally has a headstone on his grave. It was unveiled on Sunday during the Coober Pedy Historical Society’s Outing at Boot Hill Cemetery. The headstone was funded by Harry’s cousin Ausma Bukovska in Latvia, who for many years had wanted to provide a memorial with the correct name and details at Harry’s final resting place. Yvonne, the daughter Harry never knew he had, also contributed.

On a sunny winter’s day, over 30 people gathered at Harry’s grave, which Latvian representative Astrīda Upītis from Canberra had decorated with Latvian flags and flowers. Members of the Coober Pedy Historical Society gave a rundown of Harry’s colourful life, and other locals shared their amusing memories of him, such as Harry and a friend turning up at the hospital, unannounced and full of Christmas cheer, to play carols on the accordion and harmonica. Residents remember him goosestepping down the main street on Anzac Day, relieving himself to put out a fire at the pub, dancing at the Italian club, singing, collecting women’s underwear and hats, and claiming he was a baron.

But few people know other details of his life. Harry was born into a well-to-do farming family in Dundaga, Latvia in 1925. During World War 2 he was just shy of 17 years of age when he enlisted to fight with the Germans against the Soviet Russians, who were fast approaching and threatening Latvia’s existence. There was no Latvian army because Latvia was occupied by Nazi Germany.

For three years Harry experienced the brutality of the Eastern Front in Ukraine, Russia and finally in Pomerania (northern Germany/Poland), scene of ‘the road of slaughter’, where thousands of young Latvian boys conscripted by the Germans died. Harry was seriously wounded four times and retained shrapnel in his body. He almost had his arm amputated from the last wound but jumped off the operating table and managed to save the arm.

Harry was taken prisoner of war but escaped from the Russians and later became a ‘displaced person’ in refugee camps in Germany for six years. Unable to go back to Latvia because it was occupied by the USSR, he was one of the thousands of postwar migrants to come to Australia, sailing on the *MV Fairsea* and arriving on Anzac Day in 1951.

He lived in Bonegilla, Walla Walla, Dimboola and Dalby and had a house painting business before going north to Burketown in the Gulf area. He was unsuccessful at prospecting for gold and uranium and therefore turned to crocodile hunting. From 1956 until the late 1960s he hunted about 10,000 crocodiles, had many adventures, retained all his limbs, and lived in Roger José’s tank house in Borroloola. He wrote diaries, and two books in Latvian about his hunting and Northern Australia, and one about his life (with journalist Rimants Ziedonis). Scores of articles were written and documentaries made about Harry throughout his life. He was also involved in a politically sensitive inquest in Mt Isa, the events instigated by his singing, one of his favourite pastimes.

When crocodile hunting was banned in the early 1970s, Harry fished for Western rock lobster (known as crayfish) in Western Australia and saw vast areas of WA and SA as a gravity surveyor, resulting in a gravity map still used today. When his job brought him to Coober Pedy, he was intrigued by the ‘shiny stones’ and stayed in town for 36 years until his death.

Harry immediately set to work mining for opals and had two dugouts. The first was Crocodile Harry’s Dugout or Fort Kurland (after his region in Latvia) in Shell Patch and the second was the Crocodile’s Nest at Four Mile, both having walls decorated with names of visitors and quirky artwork, including Harry’s sculptures of naked women, and underwear of his supposed ‘conquests’. The Crocodile’s Nest is still a tourist attraction today.



Crocodile Harry’s grave with its new headstone



Famous photo of Crocodile Harry, a testament to his well earned name



A closer view of Crocodile Harry’s grave

Harry loved women and had several ‘great loves’, including Dzidra, his first love, with whom he corresponded all his life. He married an opera-singing German woman he’d never met, and who arrived in Coober Pedy with 40 pairs of shoes and a mink coat. The stormy relationship with Marta didn’t last, and she moved across the road. Harry also enjoyed talking to Tina Turner when a scene of *Mad Max 3* (1985) was filmed in the Crocodile’s Nest, and to Olivia Newton-John, who made a music video and rode up to the Nest on a camel.

Harry had success with his opal mining and sent money and presents to Latvia to his family, which had been dispossessed of its farm by the communists and sent into forced exile in Siberia, where his father died. One brother died in the war, the other survived Siberia.

When Latvia regained independence in 1991, Harry became somewhat of a celebrity there, and a movie was made about him. They claimed he was the prototype for Crocodile Dundee, but Paul Hogan denied this. Harry died of throat cancer in 2006.

Harry was a patriot, adventurer, writer, artist and entertainer. And he was a chameleon—a rugged hunter yet a sensitive soul yearning for love, a boisterous nuisance yet an intellectual man who spoke four languages, a ‘gentleman’ yet a tawdry womaniser. He magnified the contradictions with his fabrications, such as the one about being a baron.

Harry had an interesting life, an unusual and intriguing personality and represented a sad generation of men traumatised by war, which caused them to drink and suffer from depression and PTSD.

The epitaph (from Latvian writer Rainis) that Harry’s cousin Ausma chose for the headstone reminds us of this: ‘You try to break us evil foe/But the battle is not yet over’. She said it’s like an oath of Latvian soldiers, and Arvids’ life was a sacrifice to this battle, a battle that continues to this day in Ukraine.

(Note: The headstone was prepared in Adelaide by Tillett’s Memorials and erected in CP by Thomas Hammermeister, the operation being coordinated by the author).



Regional Development Australia

FAR NORTH

We Want Your Feedback!

Hello Coober Pedy Business Owners,

Please take a minute to answer this short survey and provide your feedback on future workshops and skilled training. As discussed at the March Business Networking Event; by answering these questions you'll help us better serve you in the future.

[Take Survey](#)

<https://us14.list-manage.com/survey?u=2085d89590ecf1c1e44a10340&id=afc8c210e0>

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA FAR NORTH
Regional Business Development Manager
Greg Williams

Phone: 0400 746 259
Email: ba@rdafn.com.au
Website: www.rdafn.com.au

PUBLIC NOTICE

Coober Pedy Mine Rescue/SES
Unit Manager: Petta Burnett Ph. 0458 875 977
Deputy Unit Manager: Mark Hood
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024
Location: Coober Pedy Mine Rescue/SES Shed
- 1 McDougal Street
Date: 13TH July 2024
Time: 18:00 – 6pm
Any apologies to Petta Burnett by 12th July 2024
* If interested in volunteering please call 0427 725 446 or email Petta.burnett@sasresvolunteer.org.au *



Winton Opal Festival's 2024

QBOA hold an annual Opal Festival in Winton, with the 2024 Festival taking place on

July 12th and 13th.

The Winton Opal Festival is the first on the circuit of Australia's eastern states trade shows, held in opal producing areas.

The Winton Opal Festival takes place in Elderslie Street, between Werna and Oondooroo Streets.

The main street is closed to traffic on Friday and Saturday 12th and 13th and you will find traders selling rough parcels, cut stones, as well as jewellery pieces, and allied souvenir items.

2024 – Bring some colour into your life with our wonderful National Gemstone mined right here near Winton. Buy direct from the miners.

ACCOUNTANT - COOBER PEDY

Arid Areas Accounting
Audit & Tax
Richard Younger



These services include:

- Business Activity Statements (BAS)
- Income tax returns
- Book-keeping
- Payroll Services
- Business advice
- Audit
- Forming partnerships, trusts and companies
- Obtaining Australian Business Number (ABN)

Mob: 0422 428 850
richard@aaaaat.com.au

We specialise in providing practical, sound accounting, auditing & tax services & advice to individuals, families & businesses

Office: Business Centre, Hutchison Street (next to Centrelink)
PO Box 711 Coober Pedy

Supporting "Shop Local at Coober Pedy"

REMINDER!

DISTRICT COUNCIL COOBER PEDY CONSULTATION

Draft 2024/25 Annual Business Plan and Budget

<https://www.cooberpedy.sa.gov.au/latest-news-events/public-consultation/budget-abp-2124-consultation>

ANDREWS PROPERTY

Deceased Estate Portfolio Auction

Lot 163 Paxton Road, Coober Pedy



- Former commercial property - 3 bed, 1 bath
 - Zoned -Township
- Land - 1300 sqm approx.
- Leased at \$165 per week

Lot 102 Roberts street, Coober Pedy

- Residential dwelling - 5 bed 1 bath
 - Zoned - Residential
- Land: 809 sqm approx.
- Leased at \$185 per week

Lot 1347 Burke Street, Coober Pedy

- Residential dwelling - 3 bed, 1 bath
 - Zoned - Residential
- Land: 928 sqm approx.
- Leased: \$140 per week

Lot 1637 Hutchison Street, Coober Pedy

- Residential dwelling - 3 bed, 1 bath
 - Zoned - Residential
- Land: 1313 sqm approx.
- Leased: \$220 per week

Lot 230 Stretton Road, Coober Pedy

- Residential dwelling - 2 bed, 1 bath
 - Zoned - Residential
- Land: 2616 sqm approx.
- Leased: \$150 per week

Lot 397 Jones Street, Coober Pedy

- Residential dwelling - 2 bed, 1 bath
 - Zoned - Residential
- Land: 899sqm approx.
- Leased: \$160 per week

Lot 407 Fitzgerald Road, Coober Pedy

- Residential dwelling - 3 bed, 1 bath
 - Zoned - Residential
- Land: 1050 sqm approx.
- Leased: \$160 per week

211 Stretton Road, Coober Pedy

- Opportunity to renovate - reside or rent
- Large clean up required - you never know what you may find
 - Value in property and loose items
 - Fantastic opportunistic project

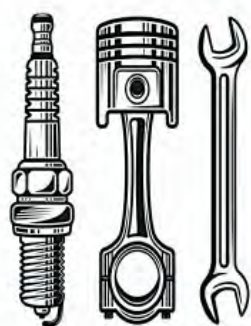
Lot 1073 Opal Crescent, Coober Pedy

- Residential dwelling - 3 bed, 1 bath
- Two dugouts on the one Crown Record (Annual Licence)
- Combined kitchen and dining area
- Carpeted bedrooms and living areas

Auction: 16th July 2024 at 12:00 Noon
at Italian Club, Coober Pedy
– Italian Club Road

(All properties offered individually unless sold prior)

Enquiries to Warren Andrews
0418 700 600 |
warren.andrews@andrewsproperty.com.au
(RLA: 321321)



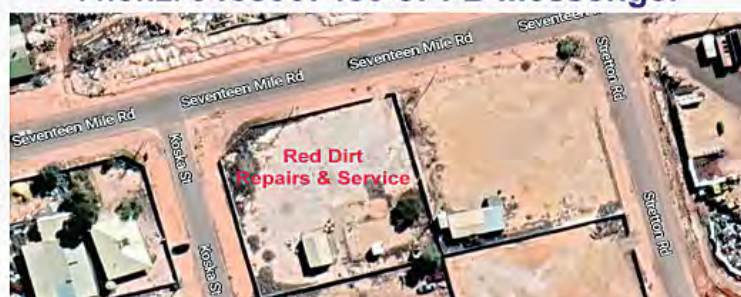
RED DIRT Service and Repair

Workshop is now open week days - Call in and see Marcus

Lot 66 Seventeen Mile Rd (Opposite Lion's Club)

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100085582637596>

PHONE: 0488007450 or FB Messenger



Motor Repairs
Servicing
Exhaust
Brakes
Truck/Trailer repairs
Steering/suspension
Clutch/transmission
Radios and cooling

Diagnostics
Auto electrical
Air conditioning
Air-con regassing
Diesel mechanic
Mining Machinery
Heavy Vehicles
Vehicle parking

WEDNESDAY

CFS TRAINING

Training 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 7.00pm.

ALL enquiries to Cpt Matt Corner on 0458 396 305

MINE RESCUE/SES

1st Wednesday of the month 7.30pm, and
2nd & 4th Saturday of the month 9am.

Unit Manager Contact detail is 0427 725 446.

THURSDAYS

CP SHOOTERS CLUB

See back page for latest updates



FRIDAYS

Greek Charcoal BBQ every Friday at the Greek Hall.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Meets Fridays 7pm at the side of the Catholic Church

If you have a drinking problem and need help. Call 1800222222, Or call Dave on 0409349753

SATURDAYS

PARKRUN

8am Saturday mornings
Town Oval



GOLF 8 30am

MINE RESCUE/SES

2nd & 4th Saturday of the month 9am
Duty officer ph no: is 0427 752 446

CP SHOOTERS CLUB

See BACK page for latest updates, or Ring John DiDonna on 0427 649 389

CROATION CLUB

Happy Hour 6-7pm

SUNDAYS

CATACOMB Church Services
SUNDAY SERVICES begin on the 10th and then every Sunday following EASTER SERVICES
Easter Friday 29th March and Sunday 31st March.

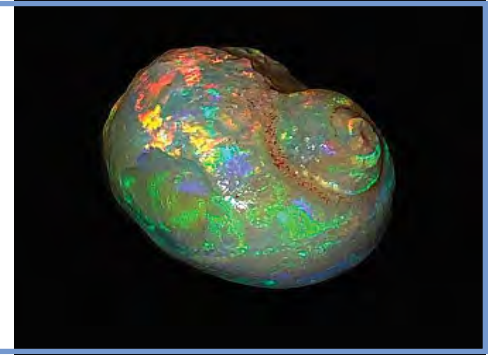
CP SHOOTERS CLUB

See BACK PAGE for latest updates
Ring John DiDonna on 0427649389

COOBER PEDY RSL

Open Sunday afternoon from 4.00pm,
Happy hour and members draw between 5.00pm and 6.00pm

COOBER PEDY - QUICK FACTS



Coober Pedy is a Cosmopolitan, Underground Opal Mining Town, built on the back of Precious Opal.

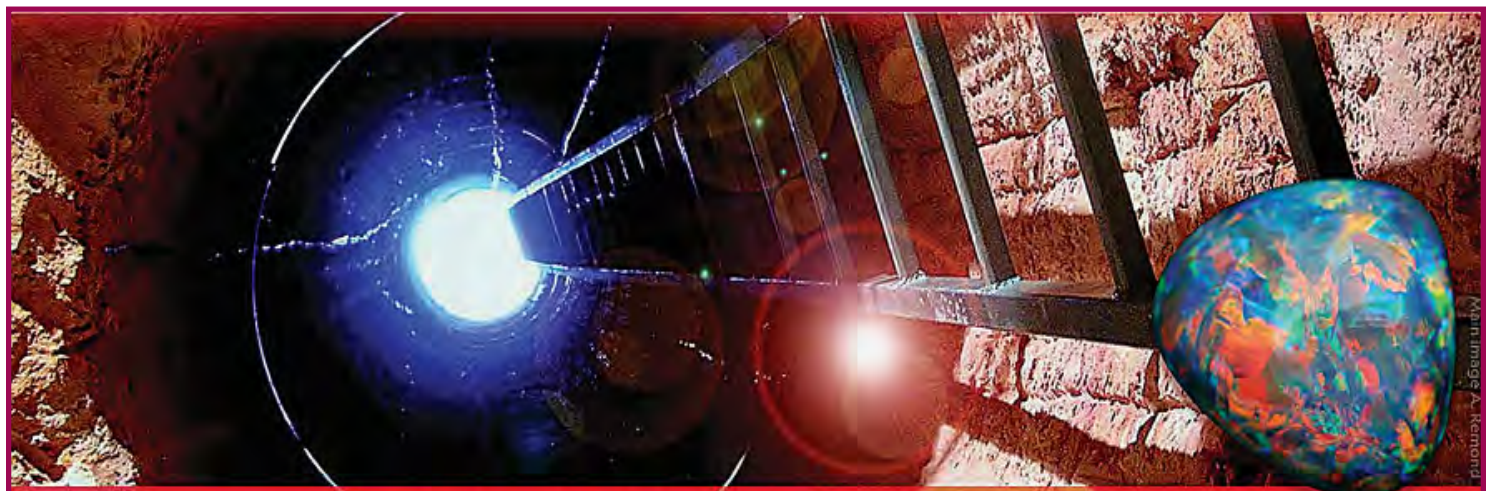
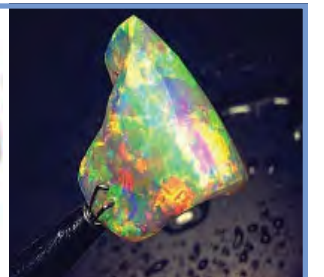
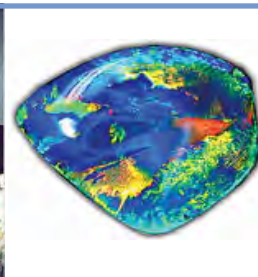
Located on the Stuart Hwy in Outback South Australia, with a population of 1,566 and over 45 nationalities, Elevation: 226 metres (774 feet) above sea level; postcode: 5723. Time Zone: Australian Central Standard Time (UTC +9:30). Subject to summer time/daylight savings between October and March annually

Main Industry - OPAL – Coober Pedy is known as the Opal Capital of the World; Opal being Australia's National Gem. Coober Pedy has 70 Opal Fields.

Coober Pedy is also renowned for its underground living. Dwellings called dugouts, were built by early opal miners to escape the intense summer heat, and the cold desert winters. Tourist flock to the Opal Capital from autumn through to early summer and experience the historic existence of over a century of opal mining and underground living.

To Visit Coober Pedy - The town can be accessed by car, coach and air-flights from Adelaide; also train from Adelaide, on the Ghan line. The Manguri siding is 47km from town and transportation into Coober Pedy would need to be arranged.

Distances by Road from Coober Pedy to: Alice Springs: 687.3 km 6 hr 58 min; Darwin: 2,183.2 km 22 hr 16 min; Port Augusta: 540.2 km 5 hr 31 min; Adelaide: 848.2 km 9 hr 2 min; Melbourne: 1,573.7 km 17 hr 9 min; Perth: 2,492.7 km 28 hr.



AOC AUSTRALIAN OPAL TOUR 2024

Experience of a lifetime • 25 September - 4 October 2024

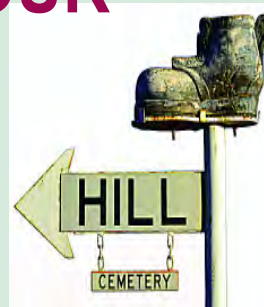
See link for Itinerary

<https://www.facebook.com/cooberpedyregionaltimes/posts/pfbid047D1eDFaaLVsJjRSVeqKqYW14uZfnw6VTqPNQWwjrerZkpXarb8ygnpX4PbZF7ZYI>

REMAIN PART OF YOUR COMMUNITY

Recording resident movement, particularly from the opal mining sector, or from any sector can be important for future records.

Email editor@cooberpedytimes.com



SA schools term dates 2024

- 1) 29 January to 12 April
- 2) 29 April to 5 July
- 3) 22 July to 27 September
- 4) 14 October to 13 December

WELCOME TO GRANTS & OPPORTUNITIES 2024

NEW



New funding available for innovative community wastewater projects

A new grant funding program supporting innovative community wastewater projects that benefit local councils is officially open and inviting nominations.

The Community Wastewater Innovation Fund has been established by the CWMS Management Committee and facilitated by LGA South Australia, with funding from the South Australian Government providing eligible organisations up to \$225,000 to help advance their Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS) initiatives.

All South Australian councils, regional local government associations, education institutions and universities, local government professional bodies, and organisations interested in collaborating with local government can apply for funding.

To be eligible for funding, nominated projects must deliver clear outcomes and address CWMS needs of local councils with networking and collaboration, staff development, financial sustainability and cost pressures, benchmarking and sector data analysis, and innovation and technology advancements.

The 2023-24 funding round for the Community Wastewater Innovation Fund will be open from 21 June until 26 July 2024.

Applications may only be lodged online through LGA South Australia.

For more information, visit the LGA South Australia website: www.lga.sa.gov.au/wastewater-innovation-grants.

Minister Joe Szakacs said, The South Australian Government is proud to fund this new initiative, which will drive innovation in wastewater management systems right throughout our state and help grow communities.

This fund will support the vital installation of CWMS in communities across the state and promote further growth in our regions.

We greatly value the partnership we have with LGA South Australia in delivering CWMS for South Australian communities and we look forward to seeing the creative projects put forward for the Community Wastewater Innovation Fund.

Mayor Dean Johnson, President, LGA South Australia said, "Advancing CWMS projects in regional areas is critical not just for existing residents, but for encouraging and facilitating further housing growth across the state and attracting new people to regional areas.

Community Wastewater Management Systems may not sound glamorous, but they are essential pieces of infrastructure that treat effluent in our regions – you would certainly notice if your neighbourhood didn't have one.

An example being earlier this year, more than 400 new wastewater connections for homes in Fisherman Bay on the Yorke Peninsula were created, delivering long-term certainty for property owners, alleviating community concerns over health and environmental impacts caused by ageing septic tanks, and showing how important CWMS is to country towns.

The new Community Wastewater Innovation Fund seeks to incentivise eligible organisations who are keen to work with local councils on creative ways to deliver more positive CWMS outcomes for regional communities.

Through these collaborations – and with support from our valued State Government partners to fund new, cutting-edge ideas – we can continue supporting our regional communities to ensure they keep growing and thriving.

Strengthening Rural Communities Small & Vital

Round 22 is now open
Applications close 5pm VIC time (AEST) 5 September 2024
Funding announced by mid November 2024

The Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) Small & Vital stream gives small remote, rural and regional communities across Australia the opportunity to access funds for a broad range of initiatives that directly and clearly benefit local communities.

Grants up to \$10,000 are available for a broad range of grassroots, community-led initiatives that directly and clearly benefit local communities that strengthen local people, places and climate solutions, with a preference for smaller communities (populations under 15,000).

Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis and assessed quarterly.

NOTE: There are two streams of funding available within the Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) Program: Small and Vital and Prepare and Recover. Organisations may submit their application in one of these streams per SRC grant round, and any other applications in this round will be considered ineligible.

<https://frrr.org.au/funding/place/src-small-vital/>



New grant opportunity! Saluting Their Service Commemorative Grants Program

The Saluting Their Service Commemorative Grants Program aims to commemorate the service and sacrifice of Australia's defence personnel in wars, conflicts and peace operations, and their families.

The Australian Government is inviting eligible organisations to apply for grant funding under the Saluting Their Service Commemorative Grants Program (the program).

The program is designed to provide funding for projects that promote appreciation and understanding of the experiences of service and the roles that those who served have played, and to preserve, add to the sum knowledge on, or provide access to information about Australia's wartime heritage.

There are 2 categories of grants available under the program:

1. Community Grants (STS-CG)

Grants to a maximum of \$10,000 are available for local, community-based projects and activities.

2. Major Grants (STS-MG)

Grants between \$10,001 and \$150,000 are available for major commemorative projects and activities that are significant from a national, state, territory and/or broader regional perspective.

Applications are now open and close 9:00 pm AEDT on Wednesday 5 February 2025.

<https://www.grants.gov.au/Go/Show?GoUuid=8f80a57c-4453-4014-8ef3-7ce786b356d7&keyword=GO6758>



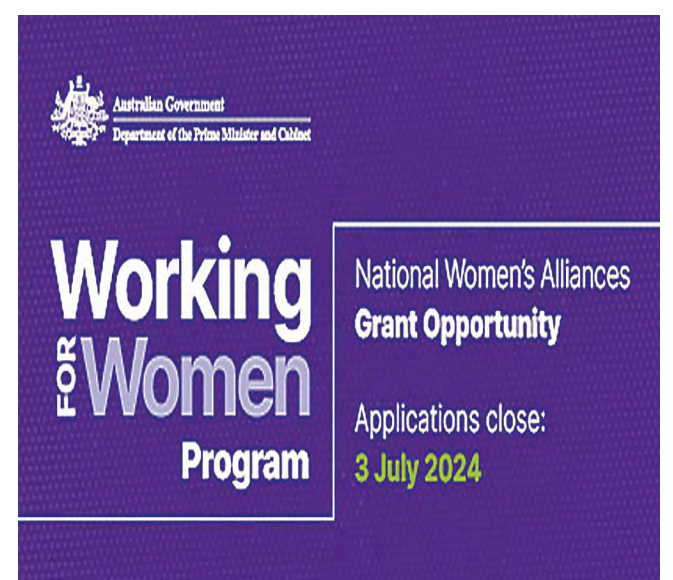
New grant opportunity! National Women's Alliances

The National Women's Alliances grant opportunity is being provided by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Up to \$10.88 million is available from December 2024 to June 2029 to establish a network of up to 6 civil society organisations to provide expert gender advice to Government and ensure women's voices inform the implementation of the Working for Women: A Strategy for Gender Equality.

Applications are now open and close 5:00 pm AEST on Wednesday 3 July 2024.
Find out more on GrantConnect.

<https://www.grants.gov.au/Go/Show?GoUuid=76689554-6946-4a58-b2e2-82df6bc6671c&keyword=GO6949>



Correctional Services workforce boost in the regions

More than a dozen new Correctional Officers have started at two regional prisons amid a recruitment and workforce boost.

14 graduates – part of Correctional Officer Training Course 208 – will be based in Port Augusta Prison and Port Lincoln Prison, following their graduation ceremony this month.

The new recruits completed eight weeks of classroom-based training and four weeks of in-service training, paving the way for nine months on roster in probationary roles.

Graduates hail from a diverse range of backgrounds including retail, civil construction, customer services, education and youth care – demonstrating the broad appeal that a career in Corrections holds.

This is the third Trainee Correctional Officer school to graduate this year, comprising 72 new Correctional Officers now working in South Australian prisons.

Two more graduations will be held in July and October – bringing the total of new recruits to over 100 Correctional Officers starting this year.

South Australia has the lowest rate of recidivist offending in the country and graduates will play an important role to further reduce this rate.

Dan Cregan Special Minister of State and Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services said, “Our regions will welcome these new recruits to help keep their communities safe.”

“Each graduate will also support prisoner rehabilitation efforts to reduce the risk of reoffending.”

“The Government is continuing to invest in its growing Corrections workforce to support communities across the state.”

“I look forward to seeing how new Officers like Varnya can make a difference.”

Department for Correctional Services Chief Executive David Brown said, “We have many staff members who have been with corrections for decades, and many families who all work with us, which speaks volumes to the quality of a career that corrections brings.”

“In fact, one of our graduating officers only recently saw their mother graduate through the school in early 2023.”

“A career with the Department also offers many different opportunities, such as working in an area of interest, developing new skills, or moving up into more senior roles.”

New Correctional Officer graduate Varnya said, “My stepdad has 20 years of experience at Yatala Labour Prison and the Adelaide Pre-release Centre in Adelaide. His older children also had successful roles within Corrections and I was looking for better work and financial stability, so Corrections appealed to me in that way.”

“Having good people skills is a key quality to have. We are working with different people every single day and every contact with a prisoner matters. So, I think it's very important to have those skills to communicate, to empathise, to be firm, but fair and to work well in a team.”

“Officers rely on one another, to get their job done successfully. Being flexible and a quick learner are also good qualities to have.”

Cooper Pedy Magistrate Court

Malliotis Blvd. Cooper Pedy (08) 8672 5601



Cooper Pedy Sitting dates in JUNE

Monday 24th June 2024
Tuesday 25th June 2024
Wednesday 26th June 2024
Thursday 27st June 2024
Friday 28th June 2024

<https://www.courts.sa.gov.au/case-lists/cooper-pedy-caselist/>
<https://www.courts.sa.gov.au/case-lists/roxby-downs-caselist/>



Rate of young South Australians vaping rises at alarming pace

E-cigarette use and vaping among young people has almost doubled in a year, according to new research from Preventive Health SA.

The alarming spike comes as the Malinauskas Labor Government tackles the health crisis of vaping and smoking through tough new laws, strategies, and initiatives to drive down the prevalence of smoking in South Australia, as well as supporting new national reforms.

The 2023 Population Health Survey Module System (PHSMS) released on Friday shows the number of 15 to 29-year-olds currently using e-cigarettes increased to 15.1 per cent in 2023, from 8.4 per cent in 2022.

Among 15 to 29-year-olds, this is the first time there are more e-cigarette users than there are smokers.

Worryingly, for those surveyed aged 15 years and over, 6.7 percent have reported current use of e-cigarettes, compared to 3.6 percent in 2022. E-cigarette use is also rising among 30-59-year-olds, up from 3.1 per cent in 2022 to 6.7 per cent in 2023.

Vaping increases the risk of serious health outcomes including addiction to nicotine, serious harm to the lungs, and a risk of poisoning especially in children.

The statewide survey of 3,000 people was analysed by the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) to inform progress against the South Australian Tobacco Control Strategy.

The key target of the Strategy is to reduce daily smoking prevalence in the South Australia population to six per cent by 2027. Early signs indicate that South Australia is on track towards achieving this target.

A summary of the survey can be found on the Preventive Health website.
<https://www.preventivehealth.sa.gov.au/assets/downloads/tobacco-and-vaping/SAHMRI-Smoking-and-e-cigarette-use-in-SA-2023-two-page-report.pdf>

CONTACT

Whyalla
8645 4255

Port Pirie
86331744

Kadina
88214366



ROWAN RAMSEY MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR GREY
SERVING THE PEOPLE OF COOPER PEDY
rowan.ramsey.mp@aph.gov.au



Lee Mott
Therapeutic Counsellor

By Appointment Only
7 Day flexibility
Phone, Zoom, F2F

M: 0483 004466
E: lee@counsellingcompanion.com.au
W: www.counsellingcompanion.com.au



Cooper Pedy Country Fire Service
Station open Wednesday nights from 1800. (6pm)
with training from 18.30. (6.30pm)

For more information contact
Jeremy at
Jeremy.lambert@sacsvolunteer.org.au

Or Coordinator, Raylene Hagel 040 808 9725.
In an Emergency dial 000

FOSSICKING FOR OPAL

Fossicking Definition

Fossicking means the gathering of precious stones (opal) as a recreation, or without the intention to sell the stones or to utilise them for a commercial or industrial purpose. Note: Does not include gathering precious stones through disturbance of land by machinery or explosives.

Opal Fields are no place for children!



Dangers are everywhere, a child's safety will be placed at risk!

- Open mine shafts / exploration drill holes,
 - Unstable ground, undercut shaft edges and deep trenches,
 - Explosions,
 - Mobile plant and operating machinery, and
 - Snakes and insects.
- Falling into a mine shaft, deep trench or open cut pit, can / will sustain serious injuries or death!
- Personal Protective Equipment and Supplies
- It can reach temperatures of up to 50 degrees during summer months, and the following is recommended:
- Apply 50+ rating sunscreen to protect exposed skin from the sun's UV radiation,
 - Wear a broadbrim hat, strong lightweight clothing, gloves and enclosed footwear, and
 - Wear a P2 Dust mask / respirator when generating dust to prevent possible exposure to respirable crystalline silica.
 - Carry enough cool drinking water and fuel for the trip.
- Note: Camping is illegal on South Australian opal fields!

Communications

When fossicking alone:

- Tell someone where (location) you are going,
- Have communications (phone, two way radio etc...) to regularly check in, and
- Ensure your contact person knows what to do if you don't check in!

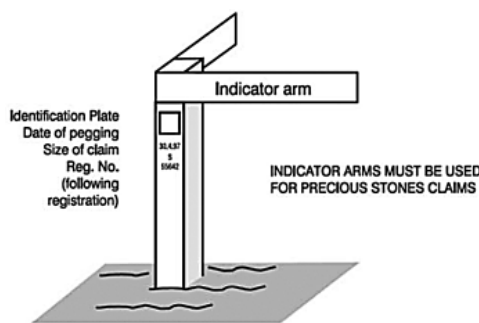


Accessing Opal Fields - Know your Location!



- Use a GPS, compass, or take pictures of locations or ground markings to ensure you know the right way out of the areas,
 - Recommend having a 3m flexible flag (orange) or an amber flashing light to make vehicle visible, and
 - Drive slow, look for traffic and drive to conditions,
- Note: Mine shafts are everywhere, keep eyes open!

Identifying a Registered Claim



A registered claim can be identified by:

- A post on each corner of the claim with a permit number attached to the post.
- Each post must be at least 70 mm thick and stand at least 0.750 m above the surface of the ground.
- Posts must be knocked securely into the ground and have indicator arms on the outer sides of the post to show the direction and clearly identify the claim boundary.

It is an offence for fossickers to enter or remain on land comprised in a claim without obtaining the permission of the owner of the claim

Dangerous Ground

Dangerous ground is an area of ground (mine shafts, tunnels, open pits, faces etc...) that has been deemed unsafe to access, fossick or mine by the Department for Energy and Mining, because it has either collapsed, or has the potential to collapse.

Dangerous ground can be identified by a "Danger – Unsafe Ground, No Mining Permitted" sign, or by Red Post Markers knocked into the ground.

Accessing or mining dangerous ground is prohibited without approval from SafeWork SA.



Identifying Unsafe Ground

Signs of potentially unsafe ground conditions are, but not limited to:

- Sunken ground, cracked / split ground,
- Open voids, and
- Weathered / eroded shaft edges

Fossicking

Fossickers are warned against entering old open cut and underground workings as many dangers may exist!



- Fossicking can only take place to a maximum depth of 1 metre,
 - All holes must be refilled,
 - Unstable ground, stale air and lack of oxygen,
 - Unprotected openings and water filled holes,
 - Fossicking into sides of excavations may cause a cave in,
 - Large stockpiles may collapse unexpectedly if undercut.
- Note: Seek assistance of experienced and competent miners to assist before entering old mines!

Caldwell Drill Holes and Exploration holes

Do not stand too close to an edge of a mine shaft! Rains can erode and undercut the ground around the top edge of a mine shaft, whilst still giving the appearance of solid ground.

When weight is placed on the ground around the edge of the shaft, the ground can give away and collapse!

Hidden Dangers!



Look where you place your feet, and never walk backwards!

Mine shafts can be covered with sheets of corrugated iron or thin metal mesh, spinifex, mullock heap spoil and other materials which can hide the dangers. Stepping on these areas, can result in the material / ground collapsing, and a person falling down a mine shaft. It is recommended to:

- Use a thin long steel rod or piece of wood to test the ground in front of you when walking around the base of a heap.
- Listening for metal on metal type sounds when tapping / pushing into the material, is a good way to identify these hazards.

Mullock Heaps



Mullock heaps are mounds of material that have been dug from a mine shaft and underground, and are generally known as waste material, and can be very slippery to climb.

Mine shafts are located at the bases of a heaps. When climbing, a loss of footing could result in a person sliding to the bottom of the heap, into a mine shaft resulting in serious injury or death.

Always climb a heap on the opposite side to a mine shaft opening, and always take a bucket of material from a heap and search through it on stable, safe ground.

First Aid and Emergencies

Be prepared for minor first aid injuries or emergency situations while fossicking in the opal fields.

Snakes are all too common in these areas, they can be found in shafts and holes, or curled up under a bush or a piece of tin.

The "inland taipan" and the "brown snake" are extremely poisonous and will attack if they feel threatened.

Ensure your first aid kit has a snake bite kit in it and familiarise with the requirements for first aid treatment of a snake bite.

It is recommended at a minimum, that the following is carried in a vehicle at all times whilst in the opal fields:

- A small first aid kit, and snake bite kit, and
 - List of emergency contact numbers
- Emergency Contact Numbers
- Ambulance, Fire and Police : 000
 - Coober Pedy Mine Rescue / SES - EMERGENCY ONLY : 132 500
 - Andamooka SES : 0427 181 752
 - Andamooka CFS : 0408 807 943

Additional Information

For further information on opal mining & locations, go to www.energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/ opal_mining or contact: Ashley Wood; Jacqueline Boland Manager Opal Fields Program Opal Mining Registrar Phone: +61 (8) 8672 5800 Phone: +61 8 8672 5800 Email: Ashley.Wood@sa.gov.au Email: Jacqueline.Boland@sa.gov.au

Updated Local Service
Provider Listings

- C.P. Police Station

Malliotis Blvd. Coober Pedy
(08) 8672 5056; Assistance 131 444;
Emergency 000; Crime Stoppers 1800 555 677
- Coober Pedy Hospital

Lot 89 Hospital Rd
Open 24 hours · (08) 8672 5009
- Coober Pedy Medical Practice

Lot 89 McDougal Road
(08) 8678 9224
- iCCnet SA (Remote Health Monitoring)

Level 1, Administration Building
1 Tonsley Boulevard, Tonsley SA 5042, Australia
Tel 7117 0600 (9am to 8pm seven days a week)
Email: HEALTHFMCiCCnetSA@sa.gov.au
- Coober Pedy Area School

17/18 Paxton Rd. Coober Pedy
(08) 8672 5077
- Umoona Tjutagku Health Service

Lot 8 Umoona Rd
(08) 8672 5255
- Housing SA

Lot 334 Hutchison St (Opposite Bank)
PHONE: 131 299
- Centrelink

LOT 715 Hutchison St. Coober Pedy
13 24 68
- District Council of Coober Pedy

LOT 773 Hutchison St. Coober Pedy
(08) 8672 4600
- Coober Pedy Tourist Information Cen.

LOT 773 Hutchison St
(08) 8672 4600
- Umoona Community Council Inc

Umoona Rd
(08) 8672 5246
- MAP/Sobering Up Centre.

Ph: 86723903
MAP BUS Tues to Sat. 4pm-12am.
Sobering Up Centre Tues - Sat 4pm - 8am
- Umoona Tjitji Tjapu Tjuta Childcare Centre

Lot 315 Robins Blvd
(08) 8672 5644
- Umoona Aged Care

Lot 89 Hospital Rd
(08) 8672 5605
- National Indigenous Australians Ag. (NIAA)

17/18 Paxton Rd. Coober Pedy
(08) 8672 5077
- Far North Health Advisory Council

C/- Coober Pedy Hospital
(08) 8672 5009
- C.P, Community Correctional Centre:

Malliotis Blvd. Coober Pedy
(08) 8672 3091
- Uniting Country SA

Paxton Rd
1300 067 777
- TAFE SA

Adult education school
Hutchison St. Coober Pedy
(08) 8678 9000
- Coober Pedy Magistrates Court

Malliotis Blvd. Coober Pedy
(08) 8672 5601
- Child Abuse Report Line (CARL)

131478
- Aboriginal Family Support Services

Lot 1991 Aylett Street, Coober Pedy
(08) 8672 3066

Coober Pedy Retail, Business and
Tourism Association Inc

Coober Pedy SA 3723
Committee Elected for 2024
President: George Kountouris
Vice President: George Russell OAM
Treasurer: Nick Brellas
Secretary/Public Officer: Nicky Kountouris
Committee Members:
Irene Spillmann
Daniel Tsharke
Sean Harrison
Contact: chair@cooberpedy.com
<https://www.cooberpedy.com/contact-2/>

Coober Pedy Sports and
Recreation Association Inc

Dilusha Fernando - Chairperson
Jacqui Boland - Treasurer
Gwen Martin - Secretary
Jon Fatt-Clifton - Committee member
Paul Maduro - Committee member
Email: cpsportsandrecreation@gmail.com

COOBER PEDY, SA 5723
Committee Elected for 2024-2026

COOBER PEDY SHOOTERS CLUB Inc

COOBER PEDY, SA 5723
Committee Elected for 2023/2024“

President Daniel Lamb
“Senior Vice President Stephen Scott“
Junior Vice President Nil“
Secretary John Di Donna“
Treasurer Suzanne Bunker“
Public Relations Daniel Lamb“
PR/MPIO Officer Tabetha Wilkes“
F/Arms Instructor Chris Warrior“
F/Arms Instructor John Di Donna“
F/Arms Instructor Dale Price“
F/Arms Instructor James Michie“
Licensee/Armourer Chris Warrior“
Licensee/Armourer Daniel Lamb
Contact Secretary: 0427 649 389

Coober Pedy RSL
(Sub branch)

President: Raylene Hagel
Mick Cox: Vice President
Treasurer: Miriam Kammermann
Secretary: Peta Burnett
Kingsley Kammermann
Matt Corner
Ronda Michell
Malcolm Michell
Rosslyn Jazepczyk
Julie Knight-Eastwood

Coober Pedy RSL, Edward Street
COOBER PEDY SA 5723
(08) 8672 5477

Coober Pedy Historical
Society Inc

Committee 2024
Chairperson: Yuko Castles
Secretary: Jenny Davison
Treasurer: Sue Britt
Janet Walton
Edi Brandli
Contact: cooberpedyhs@gmail.com

Coober Pedy
GEM TRADE SHOW
Association Inc

Committee 2024
TBA

COOBER PEDY MINERS
ASSOCIATION INC

Coober Pedy SA 3723
Committee Elected for 2024
President: Matt Graham,
Secretary: Monique Harding
Treasurer: John Olsson,
Committee Members:
Rod Wells,
Mish Blanus,
Dean Kennelly, Sebastian Crisa,
Mike Eakins, Steve Perkins,
Lachlan Blanchford,
Shannon Blanchford
Bailey Stevens

Coober Pedy Opal Fields Golf
Club Inc.

Coober Pedy SA 3723
Committee Elected for 2024
Club Captain: Stephen Borrett
President: Chevahn Hoad
Secretary: Nadine Lewis
Treasurer: Father Paul Crotty
Grounds Keeper: Dylan Lewis
Bar Manager: Stephen Borrett
Committee Members:
Chloe Lewis,
Miro Markovic
Contact: cooberpedygolfclub@gmail.com

Coober Pedy Area School
Governing Council

Members
Maurice Saah (Principal) - Ex-Officio Member
Elected Staff Representative
Veronika Witham
Elected Parent Members
Lisa McClure
Chantelle Bamford- Secretary
Sabrina Troisi- Treasurer
Lyn Boussios
Ariane Montminy-Roberge- Chairperson
Lia Pantelis
Yuko Castles
Marzena Mazurkiewicz
Sarah Rethus
Donna Clements
Elected Community Members
Amber McDonald
Maria Brellas
We are currently waiting on our
representatives from the Umoona Community
and the District Council of Coober Pedy

Outback Open Air Cinema Inc
(Coober Pedy Drive In
Theatre)

Coober Pedy SA 3723
Committee 2023 -2024
Chantelle Bamford Chairperson
Rebecca Nicolle Deputy chair
Tanya Lauder Secretary/Treasurer
Lyndal Price - Committee member
Gemma Hoad - Committee member
Kaysy Clet de Leon-Committee member
Bethany Aylett- Committee member
<http://www.cooberpedydrivein.org.au/>

DUSTY RADIO INC

Coober Pedy SA 3723
Committee 2024
Chairperson Tony Wiegand
Secretary: Sharon McFarlane
Treasurer: Suzanne Bunker
Public Officer: Patsy Anne Noble
Social Media Officer: Rika Wiegand
Committee member: Tess Wiegand
Committee member: Karen Harvey
<https://www.dustyradio.com.au/>

Coober Pedy Shooter's Club

Established 1974



OPAL FESTIVAL WEEKEND

The Coober Pedy Shooter's Club would like to thank the Opal Festival Community, Organisers, Sponsors, Visitors and all the volunteers for a successful weekend.

Running a successful Hotdog Stand and Coffee Barista Service was quite rewarding. It was a hectic day. Thank you to the hardworking Shooters Club volunteers.



Peak Iron (Major Sponsor) joined the parade for the Shooters Club with Sumo guys/kids and hotdog, mustard, sauce, spoon costumes



Coober Pedy Regional Times
Federal Member for Grey, Rowan Ramsey and Teresa Ramsey called in to the Shooter's Club Stall at lunch time and caught up with John Di Donna and the Hot Dog and Barista Coffee Crew.



Hotdogs and Barista coffee, open for business



Shooters Club team ready for the Parade and the oval, hitching a ride with Peak Iron.



Sumo boys. Sumo event and suits sponsored by Peak Iron



James, Jamie and Anthony from Peak Iron lunch break with John Di Donna



Coober Pedy Regional Times