

LOW-LIFE INCIDENT ON THE 17 MILE OPAL FIELD

Police are looking into a low-life incident on the 17 Mile Opal Field where a few dozen caltrops style 'tyre spikes' were scattered across two sections inside an opal mine on a registered tenement.

The act, discovered on Wednesday, is believed to be malicious, and could have caused death or injury to motorbike riders who use the tunnels for recreational purposes.



The police would like to hear from anyone with any information, as the spikes were hand-made and spot welded and deliberately placed inside the mine.



There are severe penalties under the **Criminal Law** for setting man-traps and like-devices, that includes heavy imprisonment

Maximum Penalty for Unlawful Entry on a Mining Tenement - \$10,000

25 (1) A person must not, without lawful authority or excuse, enter or remain on land comprised in a registered precious stones tenement without first obtaining the permission of the holder of the tenement.

- (2) However, this section—
- (a) does not apply—
- (i) to a police officer acting in the course of official duties; or
- (ii) to a person appointed under an Act acting in the course of official duties; and
- (b) does not affect any civil liability.

MABEL CREEK, NEAR COOPER PEDY

Iron-Oxide Copper-Gold Project Discovery

The Mabel Creek Project is located on the northern extent of the Olympic Copper-Gold Trend (Figure 1), but the region also has geological similarities to the Mt Isa Inlier in Queensland and is considered by PTR to be highly prospective for Tier 1 Copper-Gold deposits.

The Mabel Creek Project has a significant land holding of 3,322 km², which is 100% owned by the Company (Figure 1).

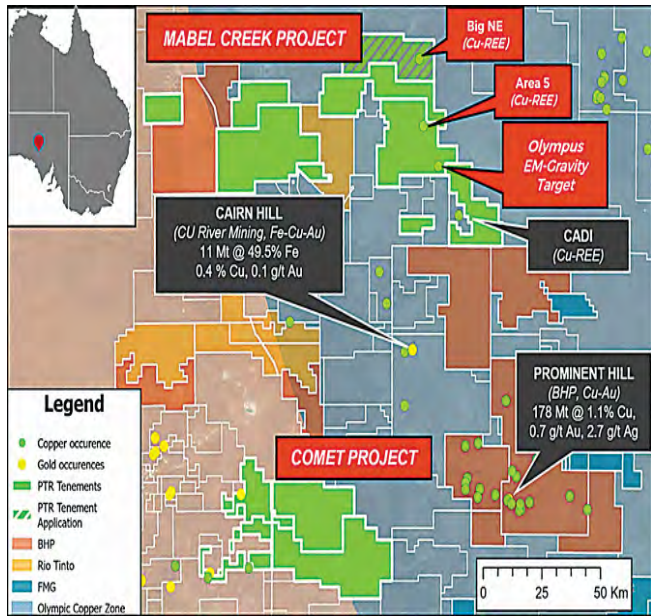


Figure 1 – PTR's Mabel Creek Project, Major Company Tenement Holdings, Copper, and Gold Occurrences

Following a region-wide structural and geological review of the Mabel Creek Project, PTR identified multiple key structures having the potential to be significant pathways for mineralising fluids. One of these, the Wirracanna Structure, is adjacent to the Cadi Copper-Rare Earth Prospect currently being investigated by Rifle Resources (Figure 2).

Limited historical drilling at Cadi has intersected broad zones of highly anomalous copper and light rare earths (i.e. drill hole 99WS003 16m @ 0.57% Cu, 0.16% Ce+La from 184m3) highlighting the fertility of this structure for iron-oxide copper-gold (IOCG).

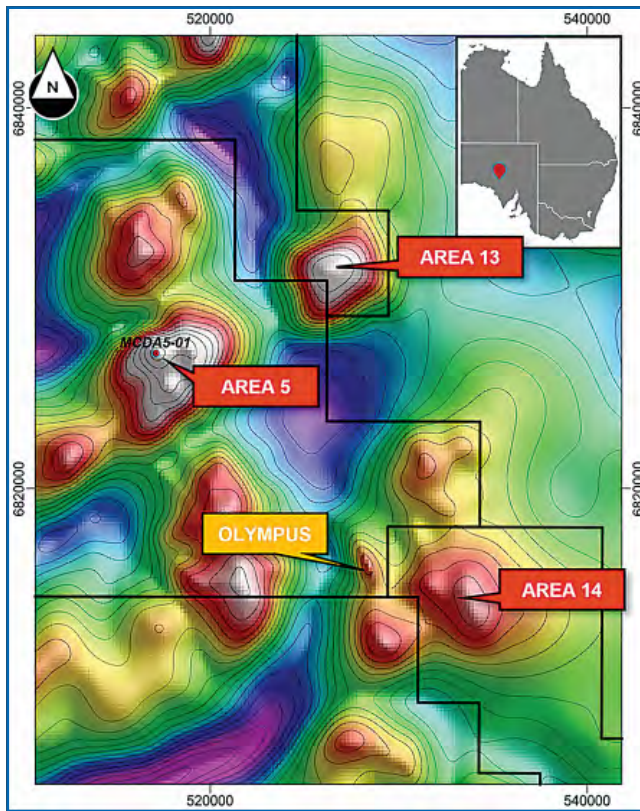


Figure 2 – Residual Gravity Image – Eastern Mabel Creek

The Olympus target was selected as a discrete semi-coincident gravity and magnetic feature of >2-kilometre strike length on the edge of the Wirracanna structure (Figure 3).

Olympus (formerly termed the Area 3 Target) is a significant discrete gravity feature of approximately 3 milligals and is comparable in extent and magnitude to the Prominent Hill copper-gold deposit gravity response⁴. SQUID EM surveys at Olympus identified a moderate conductive feature over three consecutive lines spaced 400m apart along the eastern flank of the gravity anomaly.

Modelling of the conductive response generates an approximate 2-kilometre-long conductive plate starting at approximately 600 metres below ground surface. The modelled feature dips back to the southwest and at depth is coincident with the gravity feature.

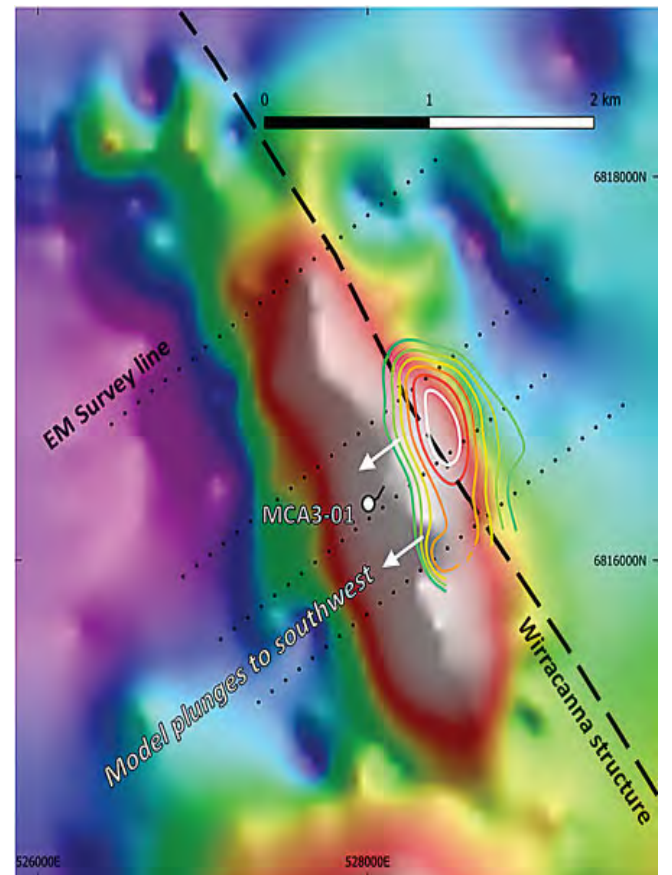


Figure 3 – Olympus geophysical response. Coloured image is gravity data (1VD Bouguer) overlain by late time EM contours (X channel 32) showing the position of the conductive plate on the eastern flank of the gravity body which plunges steeply back to the southwest.

Drill planning and contracting works are underway with testing the Olympus Target, which began during the second half of 2023 calendar year.

The Company will provide an update once contracts have been finalised. The northern Gawler Craton is extremely prospective for world class copper-gold deposits and Mabel Creek is one of PTR's key assets in a growing portfolio of exciting copper projects.

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.

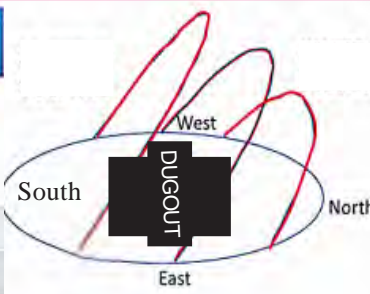
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7 DAYS WEATHER at COOBER PEDY Oodnadatta Tarcoola Andamooka Roxby Downs

	WED Oct 16	THU Oct 17	FRI Oct 18	SAT Oct 19	SUN Oct 20	MON Oct 21	TUE Oct 22							
Summary	Mostly sunny	Late shower	Mostly sunny	Sunny	Mostly sunny	Windy	Mostly cloudy							
Maximum	38°C	41°C	29°C	29°C	32°C	36°C	39°C							
Minimum	23°C	26°C	18°C	13°C	16°C	18°C	21°C							
Chance of Rain Likely Amount	20% < 1mm	40% < 1mm	5% < 1mm	5% < 1mm	5% < 1mm	5% < 1mm	30% < 1mm							
UV Index	Very High	Very High	Very High	Very High	Very High	Very High	Extreme							
Frost Risk	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil							
	9am 3pm	9am 3pm	9am 3pm	9am 3pm	9am 3pm	9am 3pm	9am 3pm							
Wind Speed	13km/h WNW	16km/h WSW	37km/h NNE	45km/h NW	34km/h SW	28km/h SW	20km/h SSE	13km/h S	24km/h E	18km/h ENE	31km/h ENE	24km/h NE	18km/h NE	15km/h SW



Summer Solstice. 0° of Capricorn - 21 December 2024. AWST 5.20pm.


MAILINGLIST

Send an email to be included on emailing list

Local Scribes


Bi Monthly

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

LEILA DAY was raised in Balranald NSW and has lived in Andamooka for 15 years. She is the Chair (AOFTA) Andamooka Opal Fields Tourism Assoc. Inc. Owner/ Operator Andamooka Observatory (and more) Leila joins our team as we share highlights of our respective OPAL FIELDS.




Leila Day
Andamooka

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



MIKE GILLAM is a freelance writer/ photographer who divides his time between his Art Gallery in Alice Springs and his Dugout in Coober Pedy. Mike also writes essays for the Alice Springs News. We welcome Mike.




Mike Gillam
Coober Pedy/Alice Springs

The Opal Capital of the World

An Underground Town built on the back of OPAL MINING.
OPAL = AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL GEM



Shane Hoobin (Opal Miner)



*Over 40 Nationalities living together;
bonded by the OPAL Industry

*Coober Pedy - situated on the LARGEST OPAL FORMATION in the world

*Spacious underground living
*Beautiful Opal Gemstones

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 digital era. Distribution covers a vast area including nearby communities and towns, social media, website and mailing list. The CPRT receives no external funding.

Next Publishing Dates

☐ Friday 25 Oct 2024

☐ Friday 08 Nov 2024

☐ Friday 22 Nov2024

☐ Friday 13 Dec 2024

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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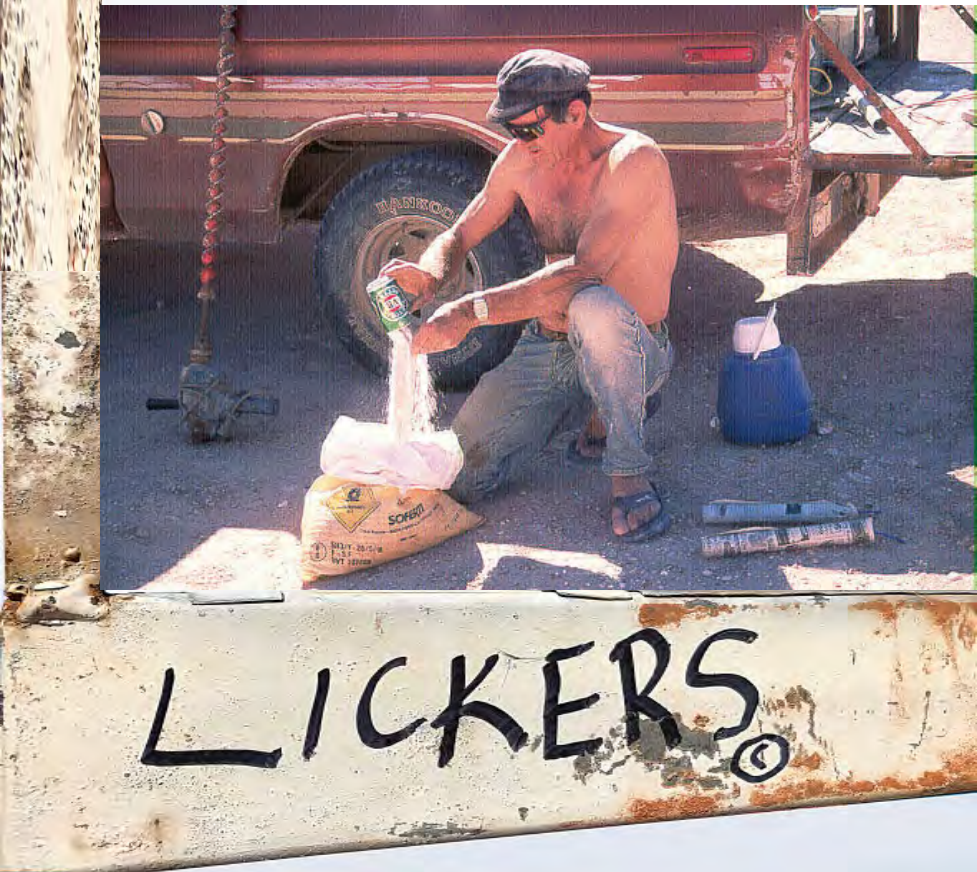
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Coober Pedy Regional Times

Friday 11 October 2024



Making 'sausages' out on the field - 90s.

Opal Mining Regulations 2012— 1.1.2021 Part 4— Mode of taking possession

11—Notification of pegging

(1) The holder of a precious stones prospecting permit who has pegged out an area for a precious stones claim within (or partly within) a precious stones field must, no later than 5 pm on the working day next following the day of pegging, give notice of the pegging to the Opal Mining Registrar in a manner and form determined by the Opal Mining Registrar.



OPAL INDUSTRY NEWS

OUR INDUSTRY IS OPAL!



Active Claims as at the 11/10/2024



Cooper Pedy: 452; Andamooka: 166;
Mintabie: 13; Stuart Creek: 1



Wardens Court Circuits 4 - 6 November 2024



New laws to bring explosives legislation into the 21st Century



A major overhaul of South Australia's explosives legislation has passed Parliament, updating a bill first adopted in 1936.

The Explosives Act 2024 modernises and streamlines the state's explosives legislation and creates consistency with other Australian jurisdictions. The 2024 Act provides a new licensing framework for explosives which is more streamlined and consistent with national licensing frameworks.

It will replace the Explosives Act 1936, which has long been considered by industry to be out of touch with contemporary standards and practices and inconsistent with other jurisdictions.

The new Act passed parliament in September and will come into operation in mid-2026. This will allow time for supporting regulations and a new licensing system to be developed.

In South Australia, the explosives industry impacts a wide variety of industries including transport, mining, agriculture, manufacturing, demolition, entertainment, pyrotechnics, rocketry and policing.

The new legislation balances the promotion of business interests, while continuing to maintain the safety and security of the South Australian public. It creates further opportunity for bespoke licensing arrangements tailored to better fit with industry.

The key changes in the Act include:

- * improved clarity around the definition of explosives
- * establishment of a licensing framework including the improved capability for issuing of bespoke licence conditions and the use of digital capability to assist in the administration
- * increased penalties for breaches of the Act
- * an improved notifications process which provides information to explosive regulators about activities, events or incidents
- * an authorisation process which better accommodates jurisdictional consistency and the removal of duplicate processes.

The maximum penalty for a category 1 breach under the new legislation is a \$300,000 fine and or 5 years' imprisonment for an individual or a \$3 million fine for a body corporate.

A category 1 offence involves the contravention of a safety duty, security duty or the regulations resulting in the death of or harm to a person, property or the environment.

<https://safework.sa.gov.au/news-and-alerts/news/news/2024/new-laws-to-bring-explosives-legislation-into-the-21st-century>



**Next meeting will be 26th of October
at 4 pm at the Italian Club.**

Summary of the meeting Saturday 5 October 4pm

We thank everyone for attending the meeting on the 5th of October to share your concerns; and also for signing up with the Alliance.

The water quality report (responses to our questions) from the Water Supply (fwd from Council) was presented and discussed.

The report lacks substance, and most questions were not answered adequately. Further investigation needs to be conducted. The new acting CEO is aware and will investigate.

Furthermore, I had a 4-hour meeting with the new acting CEO and believe he has all the skills and qualifications to assist this community.

Discussion: Drive-in Master Plan

Q: How many people at the meeting were aware of the master plan? (show of hands).

- Eleven people were aware.
- Fifty-nine people were not aware.

Drive-In master plan, 7.5 million dollars investment.

Q: Who is for the master plan? (show of hands)

- Fifty-eight people were against the master plan
- Two people were for the master plan.

Reasons-

- The Drive-in is historic
- How much would it cost the ratepayers on ongoing maintenance?
- The Drive-in is iconic and is a draw card for tourists and locals in its authenticity
- Who would invest 7.5 million dollars, and what is the investor return?

Result: Master Plan for the Drive-in was not popular.

Discussion: 40+ dwellings for essential workers and others.

"Coober Pedy Together Update - Financial Report 30 June 2023"

Q: How many people are aware of the proposed project? (show of hands)

- Fifty-four are not aware of the projects.
- Six people were aware.

Result: A majority of people at the meeting disapproved of the project.

Reasons –

- Will such a development impact ratepayer / property owners - Including government rental properties
- The council must stop dreaming up projects that will not benefit the community or the local economy..
- Why not fix the current condemned SA housing on Paxton Street and other burnt-out buildings?
- The council needs to prioritise services. • Not enough information provided
- Who is the developer? • Is Council competing with the private sector?
- Who is paying for all the services? • How far along is this development?

Other concerns brought to the Alliance's attention

1) Coober Pedy Area School requested assistance on a Zebra crossing at Paxton Street and the School Bus parking area.

Result - • Lack of communication from the works manager

2) An abandoned vehicle was reported three months ago by two ratepayers who are now asking, "Why are we paying rates for services that we are not getting?"

Result - • Lack of action from the works manager.

3) Basketball Courts lighting burning throughout the night, disturbing residents in nearby homes.

Result - • Issue has been escalated to the Minister's office for resolution.

4) Correctional Services/Council Spending - Inquiry

Result - • Administrators response - UNSATISFACTORY.

Correctional Services has been approached for more information.

The response will be published.

5) Administrator air trips including Canberra - considered to be avoidable spending.

Result - • Issue has been forward to the Minister's office for an explanation.

Kind Regards **Chairperson: John Di Donna** PO 361 Coober Pedy, SA 5723.

Email: cpc.a.chairperson@gmail.com Phone: 0427 649 389

RE: COMPLAINTS that DCCP Public Meetings, do not suit the majority of the public

14 Notices of Motions from Administrators

14.1 Calling for a Report relating to Council Meeting Times

I, Mr. Geoff Sheridan, Principal Administrator, give notice of my intention to move the below Motion on Notice at the October 2024 Ordinary Meeting of the District Council of Coober Pedy.

Motion on Notice

That Council be provided with a written report at the November Council Meeting that addresses the following matters relating to the meeting times and days for the Ordinary Meetings of Council:

1. Community Consultation – a. When did Council last consult the community in relation to changing the meeting times?
b. What was the outcome of that community consultation?
c. What and when was Council's decision(s) to change the meeting times following consultation?
d. If known, what is believed to be the main reasons for moving away from a Tuesday evening meeting time slot for Ordinary Meetings of Council?

2. Alternative Options – a. What are some alternative time and/or day options that could be considered for future Council meetings?
b. What would be the costs to Council (per meeting and annually) of any of the changes identified in 2 a. above?
c. What would be the major challenges for each of the options considered in 2 a. above, other than the costs involved?

3. Further Consideration a. That the report also includes a draft recommendation that Council might consider which would provide Council with an option to consult the Coober Pedy community in regard to potential alternative options for Ordinary Meeting times for Council times and allowing the Administrators to have input into the final community consultation documents?

Background

Council currently holds its Ordinary Meetings of Council at 3.00pm on the 4th Wednesday of each calendar month with the exception of December and January where meetings may be varied to avoid the Christmas and Australia day holiday periods. The April Council meeting may also need to be varied from time to time to avoid a clash with ANZAC Day as will Christmas Public Holidays.

As I understand it, prior to the current Administration team commencing on 29 March 2023, Council consulted the community in early 2023 about changing the Council meeting times from an evening time to a mid afternoon time slot as part of the overall cost saving options available to Council. I believe there was minimal opposition from the community when Council consulted about this option, so the Acting Administrator made a Council decision on 28 March 2023 to change the meetings from the evening to a mid afternoon time slot commencing from 3.00pm to allow senior staff to attend the Council meetings without incurring additional costs to Council through overtime penalty rates.

I am also aware, shortly after this on 24 May 2023, we as the current Administration team, changed the days of the meetings from a Tuesday to a Wednesday to reduce accommodation costs by providing the two Supporting Administrators the option of being able to fly up from Adelaide one day and catch a return flight the next day. This was prior to Rex Airlines changing their flight times substantially which occurred shortly after, meaning the savings we were hoping to achieve were short lived, however, an alternative cost saving option was identified and implemented. Instead of attending Coober Pedy personally each month had been the previous arrangement the two Supporting Administrators now only attend once every 3 or 4 months to achieve further savings for the Council. These savings are obtained through a reduction on air flights to and from Coober Pedy and less overnight accommodation.

I have been approached about the 2023 decision to move away from the evening Ordinary Meetings of Council with a request to move the time for commencing the Ordinary Meetings of Council from the 3.00pm time to an evening time. It has been put to me that more members of the community would be able to attend Council meetings either in person or online if the meetings commenced in the evenings.

This decision would not be one that I could make alone and must be one for the Council to make but like what happened in early 2023 we should consult the Coober Pedy community about this consideration before making any changes. Before we do that Council should revisit the outcome and reasoning behind previous decisions on this matter so hopefully this request for information via a Council report will allow that process to commence.

Of course, we must also consider if the Administrators would be available for other options of meeting commencement times/days and also if there are any impairments from key staff attending different options.

Geoff Sheridan
Principal Administrator
16 October 2024



COOBER PEDY DRINK DRIVER - a 12 MONTH LOSS OF LICENCE & CAR IMPOUNDED

8 Oct 2024 6:26am A drink driver has lost his licence for 12 months in Coober Pedy on Monday night.

About 9.40pm on Monday 7 October, patrols saw a man leaving a roadhouse on Hutchison Street at Coober Pedy.

The man appeared intoxicated as he got into a gold Nissan Pathfinder and drove off.

Police stopped the car a short distance away and asked the man to exit the car. The driver was allegedly unsteady on his feet and his speech was slurred. He was submitted to a breath test where he provided a positive result of 0.171.

The driver, a 44-year-old local man, was reported for drink driving and driving under the influence. He was issued a 12-month immediate loss of licence and his car was impounded for 28 days. He will be summonsed to appear in court at a later date.

Police recruitment crisis or police retention crisis?

The Opposition is calling on the State Labor Government to urgently outline its police retention plan after it was revealed today that more than one in three SAPOL employees plans to leave the force over the next three years.

The South Australian Government's People Matter Employee Survey has revealed that just 63 per cent of South Australian Police employees intend to stay working with the agency for at least the next three years.

Shockingly, the survey also revealed less than half of SAPOL employees believe that their career goals can be met at the agency, while only 26 per cent of employees 'feel energised' at work.

Shadow Minister for Community Safety, Police and Correctional Services, Jack Batty said he is deeply concerned about the impact that Labor's police retention crisis will have on future frontline policing and community safety.

"So far, we know Labor's Police Minister Dan Cregan's grand plan to get more cops on the beat has actually resulted in a net loss of police officers throughout the past year," Mr Batty said.

"We now learn that more than one in three SAPOL employees plan to leave the force over the next three years - which could have a disastrous impact on frontline policing in the midst of a crime wave in South Australia.

"SAPOL is already severely under resourced - with a shortfall of nearly 200 police officers.

"It is clear that Labor are now not just presiding over a police recruitment crisis but also a police retention crisis.

"The Government must reveal its plans on how they intend to retain our most experienced police officers who seem to be leaving in droves.

"SAPOL are crying out for help from this Government as work demands increase but resources have not kept pace.

"With crime skyrocketing across the State we can't afford to lose a single officer let alone a third of the force."

CRIME REPORT 28.9 – 8.10

BREAK/ENTER & ROBBERY WHILE OCCUPANTS ASLEEP

28.9 – Reporting person (victim) states that at about 0500 hrs on 28th September unknown offenders gained entry to their room at Stuart Range Big 4 Caravan Park whilst they were present and asleep inside.

Offenders gained entry by jemmying door, causing damage and have taken electronic items valuing \$4,300.

Suspects have since been located and apprehended by police.

BURKE STREET HOUSE FIRE CAUSE UNABLE TO BE DETERMINED

29.9 – At about 0258 hrs on 29th September police and CFS attended address due to reports of a large fire at a newly vacated premises.



On arrival found premises engulfed in flames. CFS were able to extinguish the blaze however premises completely destroyed.

No injuries or casualties to any person or animal. Nil damage to neighbouring premises.

Fire technicians attended from Adelaide and assessed scene.

Cause: "Unable to be determined.

CITIZEN'S REPORT DAYLIGHT ROBBERY IN COOBER PEDY



At approximately 12.30pm on Saturday 12-10-2024, an 83 year old man on his mobility scooter was followed from a Service Station in Hutchison Street and intercepted on Post Office Hill Road, where he was robbed of cigarettes and cash.

According to witnesses, the assailant ran back up Post Office Hill Road and turned left into Alp Street.

As well as witnesses to the robbery, there may also be footage available in town at retail locations.

Police are investigating, and it is believed that a suspect has been identified.

COOBER PEDY POLICE NEWS

UPDATE: CRIME REPORT 8.10 – 14.10

Between the hours of 11.30 pm on **Monday 23rd September 2024** and 12.30 am on **Tuesday 24th September** unknown persons have broken into a hotel room at the Desert Cave Hotel and stolen jewellery, a piece of opal, cash and other electronic items to the value of approximately \$10,000. Police investigation is continuing.

At about 11.50 pm on **Thursday 3rd October 2024** unknown person has stolen wine from the Desert Cave Hotel whilst staff were serving another customer. Police investigation is continuing.

Between the hours of 3.00 pm on **Sunday 6th October 2024** and 7.00 am on **Monday 7th October 2024** unknown persons have broken in through the front door of an address however nil items stolen. Damage to door only. No suspects have been able to be identified at this time.

On **Wednesday 9th October 2024** Coober Pedy Police located and arrested 3 suspects in relation to a break in matter which occurred on the 21st of September 2024 in Port Augusta. The suspects were charged, given bail conditions and will appear before the court in relation to the charges.

Between the hours of 2.11 am and 3.30 am on **Thursday 10th October 2024** an unknown person has gained entry to the Desert Cave Hotel. The alarms sounded and the intruder decamped. No items were stolen or any damage incurred. Police investigation is continuing.

BLITZ ON DRUGS AND ALCOHOL ENTERING THE APY LANDS



The Far North team, along with some assistance from metro officers, travelled north on the 15th October, 2024 to do an operation in the APY Lands.

The focus was stopping alcohol and drugs getting onto the APY Lands or being moved up and down the Stuart Highway.

000 EMERGENCY For emergencies or life threatening situations call **Triple Zero (000)**

131 444 For non emergencies call the **Police Assistance Line**

1800 333 000 To provide crime information anonymously contact **Crime Stoppers**

DEMANDS FOR FIFO CONSULTANT “MICROPHONE MIKE” EDGECOMB, POSITION TO BE AXED

State government NEEDS to step in!!

We read the article on page 9, 27th September 2024 Coober Pedy Regional Times and the recent Facebook posts about the Coober Pedy Together Group. I watched the clear attempt at trying to justify that group with the recent “documentaries” about themselves after Community backlash about their silence on projects that have apparently been going on for some time, behind the scenes!

I for one, believe its facilitator Michael Edgecomb has been exposed interfering in our town structure, and it is time for him to go.

There have been calls for his contract to be terminated for a number of years. The \$80k P.A. is outrageous to be paying some FIFO facilitator and all the other expenses incurred to act as a middleman between council and one group which currently stands as the drive-in committee only, that we are told can barely raise a quorum.

We also have another “Documentary” of one representative of the drive in committee giving a “shout out” to the together group for their input and support between themselves and the current Administrator team. That in itself is an admission that the together group or Edgecomb mainly has been acting as a conduit between the drive in committee of sorts, and council.

What is the wedge that needs him to fix it? Nobody has knowlege of this! Creating an illusion of a problem that does not exist? Why don’t Council/Administrators speak to these groups directly and save us \$80k P.A? I suppose that would be hard when none of the adminatrive team spend much time here.

The impression in the community now is that Edgecomb and the Together Group are the “boy Friday” for the administrators. Who is running the town in reality?

In the council agenda 31st January 2023 at page 5 former CEO David Kelly along with the audit committee cut funding to that group by 50% because of **Community backlash**. We believe this has not happened. If that has happened why is Edgecomb still here if his wage was cut in half? The acknowledgement of backlash has already been established.

The together group and the Drive in committee don’t seem to want to tell us much either. The two “documentaries” posted on Face book is the first time we have heard from them and then only after community pressure and questions. The volunteers need to realise that just because they donate their time does not mean they are right unfortunately. **Community must have input.**

At a recent meeting of the Coober Pedy Alliance out of around 80 people present only 2 put their hand up when asked for a show of hands on the subject of changing the drive in per a printed copy of Edgecomb’s Masterplan. The show of two hands clearly defeats any changes promoted by the together group. The current Drive in committee need to acknowledge that fact too.

Again the question is why did there have to be a group formed to act as a liaison between the drive in committee and council? This was confirmed in the “documentary” by the representative for the drive in committee. Both groups have an “us against them” attitude which really does not fit with our town.

It is clear by the comments being posted by one member of the drive-in committee and the following questions being asked by the community that there are clear divisions in the town, with the together group being the catalyst for that division. Nobody is capable of answering the questions. The together group is a council contrived entity funded with ratepayers money. That money is needed for essential service provision! What is lacking in the Local Government Act 1999 that allows this to occur?

Coober Pedy businesses voted against being led by Sheridan’s facilitator who does not have a business in the area, nor does he live locally. In fact none of the local groups have merged with the together group. So what is their purpose other than to mediate between the drive in and council and to create projects that nobody wants? Anyone can plant trees or organise a playground bench. Applying for grants is a normal volunteer activity!

So what is left? The community has identified that for the facilitator to continue being paid, it relies on the incompetence of the group in that they cannot be perceived as producing results without their esteemed leader. 4 years now and members have not learned how to be an independent committee with a purpose other than generating a salary for their leader out of Ratepayer funds.

There is one founding member who posted Facebook posts on a community garden page about quitting all her volunteering positions after reading about community questions in a page 9 article in the Regional Times. Why didn’t she post her knee jerk reactions on her personal Facebook page instead of on the gardening page? Would that confirm her identity along with queries about conflicts of interest? Some community members jumped to her defence but others wanted to know why she was not answering simple questions.

Days later in the “documentary” there she is again, bright as day promoting the together group along with another two new members. (I thought there were six.)

I also believe that member may have a conflict of interest as she works for a non-government department that assists with providing housing and in my opinion should not be on any group advising our Council on such matters.

Maybe that department should pay more attention to what that employee is doing. I refer to the statement made by the together group about the new 40 houses being built in Coober Pedy and its participation in working with other agencies to make that happen. Is one of those agencies one that the member of the group works for?

Hats off to all the community members that have put time and effort into what they are trying to achieve but let’s face it if the together group cannot run themselves without a FIFO facilitator maybe they should think twice about what they are doing. Ratepayers do not have to fund that group and should not.

The “documentaries” lean towards Edgecomb trying to justify his position, as both “documentaries” carry the together group logo. Was Edgecomb the man behind the camera and the script? If not come out and correct us.

Let’s get one thing sorted right now WE ARE NOT TOGETHER as they are promoting, actually the exact opposite. The sudden timing of the “documentaries” proves this.

It is past time for the together group to become its own autonomous entity like every other group in town past and present, and not be paid for by ratepayers. Currently and in collusion with Administrators, they have the audacity to make decisions in silence and then criticise community questions on their undemocratic performance. Free pizza nights paid for by ratepayers is just an abuse of their own mythical authority.

Michael Edgecomb should do the right thing and stand down. We do not want his influence. WE the community far outnumber the Together Group and Drive In committee combined. We are the major stakeholder in our own town. No one else!

“Documentaries” posted on a Coober Pedy Facebook page and the propaganda being spewed out; the Letters from readers in the Regional Times; Facebook posts from a variety of forums, is easy to see that the town is divided and up until now noone in the together group has answered a single question that has been asked by this community. Stop wasting our time. Some of us have businesses to operate!!!

Let’s cut to the chase:

- * How much ratepayer’s money was spent on the Drive In master plan?
- * What maintenance costs would be expected from the Ratepayers for future upkeep of the new drive-in model?
- * If the proposed Drive-In model is not maintained by council, then by who?
- * Why is a non-legal entity (Together Group) on behalf of DCCP involved in the development of 40 houses in Coober Pedy?

The majority of community cannot see value for their increased rates charges. Majority of ratepayer in contact want the Edgecomb position terminated (along with other wasteful spending by the current administrators). Edgecomb should have the decency to withdraw.

It has been suggested in the community that we should withhold paying our rates until the current administrators start implementing the austerity measures they promised. Maybe that discussion can be tabled again and the Administrators forced to attend a meeting and the community can voice their concerns.

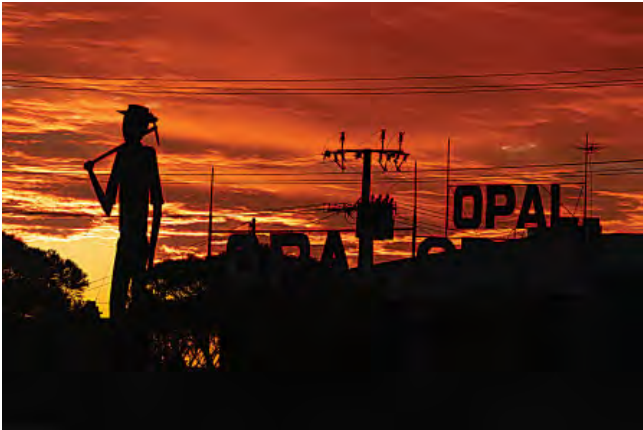
If people want to form a community group, fine, but we the ratepayers should not be FORCED to pay for it via these autocratic administrators foisted upon residents in a once democratic society. The current Labor State Government must answer for this.

**AJ Walsh
RATEPAYER**



Coober Pedy: Pearls of the Eromanga Sea

By Mike Gillam, essayist and photographer based in Alice Springs.



©Mike Gillam Big Miner

Sitting in a wheelchair, his left leg in plaster, I met 31 year old miner Jay Fitzgerald at the Kangaroo rescue service in Coober Pedy's main-street. At 9 pm on June 29, 2024 Jay was black lighting on the opal field, when he fell down an old shaft.

Miraculously Jay survived and is expected to rise from his chair in due course. The shattered left leg, caught up on the way down, probably helped to break his fall. A shattered right shoulder and broken ribs took much of the final impact although his back was also broken in two places at L2 & L4, fortuitously not severing the spinal cord.

One of Jay's companions remained at the pit, the other drove to town for help. The injured man was very lucky not to bleed out while emergency services tried to find and rescue him, a five hour ordeal.

Apparently he now holds the Coober Pedy distance record for surviving a mine shaft fall at 96 feet (29.26 metres). According to a local rescue service responder Jay found one of the deepest shafts, located on a hill, to fall down.



©Mike Gillam Underground Pottery, Coober Pedy

Popular reality television series: Outback Opal Hunters is credited with a rising interest in opal mining and with it, escalation in the odds of misadventure. Disconcerting potentials for vanishing into the void are often quoted by locals, made tongue in cheek but not without some malice.

Such commentary channels Coober Pedy's chequered history of disappearances and misadventure. Stories abound of recklessness; a newspaper office dynamited by some-one with a grievance and a screen message at the Drive-In Theatre asks patrons not to bring explosives to the venue.

Mining partners can be firm friends in poverty and bitter rivals once "colour" starts to show. I've heard many variations of opal fever and partnership disputes. Opals are incredibly hard to find, but it's much more difficult to find an honest partner, they say.

Typically the aggrieved mining partner discovers his "friend" has been clandestinely working night shift at their promising opal seam. Confronted with this duplicity, the partner flippantly replies "better I do it to you than some-one else". Without solid proof and any hope of justice, sentencing is passed in a flurry of fists.

While Coober Pedy has a reputation centred on macho stereotypes, the town's women, less overt, are formidable investors in community and social capital. Their education and passion was on full display at a public meeting I attended and wisely, the Government appointed bureaucrats fell silent, in the face of their advocacy on matters of community planning and history.

Gay feminist, Faye Naylor, worked first as a cook, before opening the Windlass Café, a popular destination for locals and tourists. She commenced building an underground home in 1962 and established a hard working all female enclave in the process. Faye understood the importance of social cohesion and her home, replete with swimming pool, became a popular venue for parties and events.

Following the destruction of the Windlass café by a tornado, Faye and partner Ettie Hall moved underground and created the Opal Cave. The 1980 booklet "Coober Pedy 65 Years Young", elaborates: "For the next eight years ... the Opal Cave boomed and today it is Coober Pedy's tourist mecca with over 760 coaches each year."

The publication's wonderfully atmospheric front cover was taken by photographer Peter Caust. The sheer volume of dust plumes hanging in the sky above the "working" opal field reminds us of major changes in the mining fortunes of the town where the air is now so good it's surely a positive attraction for refugees seeking respite from city pollution.

Faye Naylor's pivotal role within the local community is highlighted in a 1975 Australian Women's Weekly story: "At one Christmas party last year there were 65 nationalities represented."

Recently, Aboriginal involvement in opal mining has attracted conjecture and speculation from the ABC. "The very, very untold history of Coober Pedy's Aboriginal opal miners" (August 2024).

Aboriginal familiarity with these exquisite gemstones, aeons before European colonisation, is beyond doubt but ochre, needed for painting and ceremony was much more valuable to Australia's First Peoples.

Arrernte and Luritja people, engaged in ochre mining and trading at an important cultural site in the southern Northern Territory, attracted the attention of the Australasian United Paint Company.

In 1935 the Rumbalara Ochre Mine also known as Yellow King and Yellow Queen mines was established with demand for camouflage paint peaking during the war years of 1943-44 with "1345 and 1439 tons" extracted. Heritage Assessment Report by Kay Bailey (1996).

Worker death and injuries at the ochre mines motivated legal changes "made in 1948 prohibiting the employment of Aboriginal people underground" (ibid) with ramifications for the opal industry. The Sydney Morning Herald dated 16 March 1935 records: "Lubra Killed In Ochre Mine ... Diana was killed while mining in a tunnel ... This is the third accident to blacks employed underground in this district."

I've read several creation stories featuring opal. My favourite from Andamooka is described by Michael Harding in his 2016 PhD thesis: "A mythical ancestor came to Earth on a great rainbow to instruct Aboriginal people on law and practices, before returning to the sky ... where the rainbow had rested was a large area of rocks and pebbles of all colours.

"Plenty of Opal Back Then: Opal Pulkah: A History of Aboriginal Engagement In the Northern South Australian Opal Industry c.1940-1980" (p.147).

"Aboriginal cultural life of extensive duration in and around the Coober Pedy region was still evident in the 1970s with annual ceremonies relating to men's initiations generally taking place between October and March" (p.138).



©Mike Gillam Kestrel

"Coober Pedy lies almost directly midway between Port Augusta and Alice Springs, a route along which the trading of ... ceremonial objects was ... well established." (p.145-6 ibid.)

Coober Pedy 65 Years Young provides further insights: Tom Ryan came to Coober Pedy in July 1930. "Upon arrival ... camped about ¾ of a mile north of the Post Office. A few weeks later ... joined by about 400 aboriginals who camped only 400 yards away and were good neighbours. Following a death in the camp, they moved to another spot ... and gradually drifted away. There were no permanent aboriginals in Coober Pedy, only occasional visitors." (p.12).

Aboriginal involvement in pastoralism was key from the earliest times. At nearby Strangeways Springs "between 1864 and 1866 was stocked with 7,300 sheep" and dingoes were a constant threat. A place of mound springs and high cultural significance it seems certain that Aboriginal people were employed in the labour intensive roles of shepherding and stock work.

Employment enabled traditional people to maintain connections with sacred sites and provide income support for their families. Aboriginal involvement in commercial opal mining came much later. Compared with pastoralism the opal industry was typically more sedentary however it did offer greater autonomy.

Intuitively I expect that women and children finding opal "floaters" and picking through potch rubble were among the earliest indigenous opal workers but enterprising individuals soon turned their hand to everything from mining, operating bulldozers, opal buying, cutting and polishing. Barney and Dorothy Lennon came to Coober Pedy to search for opal around 1938. "When we arrived there was only twelve white people and about 200 Aborigines." (p.15, ibid)

Michael Harding's thesis, explores his subject in great detail: "Aboriginal people began moving into the opal industry by the 1940s and their engagement remained significant until the mid to late 1970s" (p.187).



©Mike Gillam opal quartz carving of Saint James

In March 1957 Aboriginal Protection Board Deputy Chair commented on the "gamble and excitement of searching for opal. (p.165). Women were highly regarded for their noodling abilities ... in an industry that was very family-friendly. (p.188). People were attracted from ... more distant locations as the industry began to expand. (p.188). One major point of difference ... Aboriginal miners had more workplace autonomy than pastoral workers ... their own bosses." (p.189).

As fuel prices increased in the 1970s, underground miners began installing noodling machines and this displaced fossickers. While history records a significant opal fossicking uptake from the 1940s by Aboriginal people I suspect many were reluctant to become fully fledged underground miners, in part because they were concerned about inadvertently causing damage to sacred sites.

Continued over page

Coober Pedy: Pearls of the Eromanga Sea

By Mike Gillam, essayist and photographer based in Alice Springs.

The risks of punishment were very real and the earth shattering use of explosives by miners must have been disconcerting. Conversely, noodling / fossicking offered flexibility and seasonal mobility.

From the 1940s eagle eyed Aboriginal women were among the most dedicated and proficient noodlers working on the opal fields. In 1945 Aboriginal woman Tottie Kendall’s find of rich surface opal triggered a rush to the 8 Mile field and a resulting boom. Before long Aboriginal fossickers from the APY Lands came to Coober Pedy to sell opal they’d sourced from Mintabie, 270 km to the north.

Finally in the 1970s the Mintabie boom gathered momentum and according to Wikipedia: “During the 1970s and 1980s, it had a population of over 500 people. Located within the APY Lands, the South Australian Government leased the opal field until 2018 when the residential community was shut down at the behest of traditional owners.

Confident in the strength of their pick arm, many of the miners I’ve known are fiercely independent and deeply suspicious of bureaucrats and politicians. Opal mining in the early days involved a wheelbarrow, pick, shovel, windlass, carbide lamp and hand drill for placing dynamite charges.

Over time mining methods have changed and costs continue to escalate. From dozers, blowers and tunnelling machines to blasting, drilling, tunnelling, noodling or simply using a pick and black light there are many options for those feeling lucky.

I fear it’s nearing the end of an era. Old timers, men and women in their seventies and eighties are a dwindling cohort that occupy an expanding place in my heart.

One octogenarian laughs at my concern and confirms that he takes no medication and never goes to the doctor. Never? Surely not! I prevail on another to please take the mobile phone when she goes walking in the bush alone. For reasons unclear to me, I find this reckless abandon troubling yet admirable.

With tidal ebb and flow, the fortunes of Coober Pedy have oscillated over time. An ageing population of miners is a fact of life and yet renewal is occurring. The incoming tide is bringing a younger generation of miners attracted by the popular TV series “opal hunters” and an improving opal price.

At the time of writing the near worthless potch has sky-rocketed in value and this helps to offset rises in operating costs. Potch is the base stone that must be endlessly worked in the search for elusive opal colour.

Innovative designers and technicians, led by Indian buyers are now polishing potch with its infinite variety of swirling white, yellow, grey, and black tones and creating affordable jewellery that glows on darker skin.

It’s also rumoured that larger pieces of quality potch are a viable alternative for ivory carvers who must abandon the traditions of a murderous and illegal market. Great news for elephants, rhinos, and the mining towns of Coober Pedy and Andamooka if it’s true!

The murmur of wind passing over the dugout’s light wells and air shafts, the ricochet and pitter patter of rain striking the courtyard pavement, the hum of vibrating windows, now the sharp ping of rain on the iron air shafts, and in the far distance, the rush and roar of storm cells sweeping across the landscape.

There’s a faint metallic tapping and I resolve it’s a wisp of moving twig in a zebra finch nest at the top of the air shaft in my bedroom. All these sounds, separated and multi-layered, create the muted symphony of a Coober Pedy storm cell tamed by metres of insulating rock. Soulful and comforting, as hard as I try to stay awake, immersed in this grand soundscape, I am lulled to sleep earlier than usual.

I’m awakened by the endearing sounds of baby zebra finches expecting to be fed, a gentle way to confront the challenges of a new day. What the hell, I’m still in bed listening to baby finches! My phone provides shocking confirmation that it’s a few minutes to eight. I’ve learned that you really must set the alarm when sleeping underground.



©Mike Gillam Opal inlay plate by Jim Theodorou of the Big Miner

Beneath the petrified tides of the Eromanga Sea, these are the deepest and most restful sleeps of my life. The zebra finch chatter sparks early childhood memories of my paternal grandfather. Percy would have loved Coober Pedy and been in agreeable company with the returned ANZACs who settled here. WW1 veterans, pioneers of trench warfare, are credited with building early Coober Pedy dugouts to escape the heat.

As a small child I recall one-sided conversations with my grandfather who sat inside a bird aviary surrounded by zebra finches, lost in a book and shutting out everyone. Hanging from the aviary ceiling, reconstructed coconut shells with an entry hole, were his nesting box innovation that soon caused a population explosion of finches. Evacuated from that WW1 hell on earth, the Somme, they removed most but not all the shrapnel from Percy’s legs. He was the lucky one, his friends on either side were blasted to oblivion by the artillery shell.

The faces of gruff miners crumple, my questions about their past in war ravaged Europe unanswered. Catastrophe propelled them here and I’m reminded of my fortunate life. I never heard my grandfather speak a single word but the finches speak for him and all the war impacted survivors that find a measure of peace in such places.

“The stars blazed in thousands, more and more of them as the darkness grew intense, till the Milky Way was like a bracelet of diamonds a million miles long ... If we could see the stars only once in a hundred years from one particular spot, people would come crowding from all over the world to see the miracle ... We never appreciate what we’ve got.” From Thiele’s “The Fire in the Stone”. (p.61)

My friend Slavco-Steve, 84, was born in Montenegro. We sit on the verandah overlooking a stunning view, a night sky that merges with the twinkling lights of distant neighbours. Our companion, Les Hoad, aged 83, worked as water supply manager for more than a decade and was elected the last Mayor of Coober Pedy.

I ask Les why he sought election in 2018 when the record of the previous Town Council looked so dire, a scathing report from the State Ombudsman making findings of financial maladministration? “I thought I could help” he replied gruffly. Pausing for a moment, Les continued: “I’ve lived here 33 years, I have two children who still live here, five grandchildren and four great grandchildren, what else could I do?”

Unbeknown to Coober Pedy voters, the state Government of South Australia had an alternative plan. The election process played out and the incoming Town Council was suspended after nine weeks. Thereafter the first Administrator was appointed in a process that has expanded with an additional two part time “Administrators” and six years later, no end in sight.




©Mike Gillam stone masonry

Peter Rowe’s wonderful pottery kiln was last fired in 2008 but I sense the visual arts and film industries of Coober Pedy are sleeping giants that will rise in the future. Perhaps the Opal festival will broaden its scope in time to include an equal billing for the fossils of the Eromanga Sea. The town might declare Coober Pedy a dark sky destination, a place of solace for weary millions taking a break from their shuttered lives?

Of course those looking north from the ivory towers of Adelaide may have different ideas. As a resident of Alice Springs I do understand the disconnect, injustice and inefficiency of life in remote regions controlled by distant overlords. If Coober Pedy is going to thrive in the future, city decentralisation in favour of regional autonomy is critical.

Historically the Federal and South Australian Governments have viewed the remote north as a suitable place for a missile and atomic testing range, a toxic waste dump perhaps, a region where corporate miners are more than celebrated and small miners too often treated with disdain.

All text and images © MIKE GILLAM

**Government of South Australia**
Far North Health Advisory Council

The Far North Health Advisory Council Inc.

Call for Nominations

and notice of

Annual General Meeting

Are you interested in local health services?
Looking for an opportunity to advocate for your local community?

The **Far North Health Advisory Council Inc.** is looking for people like you to join as a Resident Member Representative. Nominations are called for four (4) positions. We are looking for residents of the District Council area of Coober Pedy or, who lives outside the council area but who uses or may use services provided by or associated with the Far North Health Services.

As a Resident Member Representative, you will share your perspective, study issues and provide opinion to serve as an advocate for the Far North Health Services and bring the voice of the community to the group.

The **Far North Health Advisory Council Inc.** wants to hear from all backgrounds, abilities, identities and lived experience to help shape the services to better serve everyone in our community.

The **Annual General Meeting** will be held on Wednesday 20 November 2024 at 5.30pm at the Coober Pedy Community Health Meeting Room. All welcome.

Following the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting a process to determine representatives' appointment for a three (3) year period will take place.

Nominations must be in writing, signed by two (2) residents for the community and by the nominee who must also be a resident of the community.

Nomination forms are available by contacting Health.EFNLHNCommunications@sa.gov.au

Your Nomination form, along with a current Curriculum Vitae, are to be forwarded in an envelope marked 'Confidential' and addressed to:
Malinda Watson
FNHAC Returning Officer
Port Lincoln Health Services
PO Box 630
Port Lincoln SA 5606

By the close of business on Monday, 04 November 2024.

W25545

OME [OPAL MINER'S ENTERPRISE] - AN ORGANISATION BUILT BY THE OPAL MINERS, FOR THE OPAL MINERS

FROM PREVIOUS EDITION:

Once again research went into the acquisition of underground tanks and bowzers and petrol supply. This was all possible and very soon completed but it could only be sold in very large quantities. In order to sell in practical amounts, a licence was needed.....

Obtaining a petrol licence was the most challenging and costly procedure to OME so far. The first approach was made without legal representation and was not surprisingly opposed by the local service stations who had full legal representation, including a planning report, which of course was unfavourable to the applicant.

The second application was made some time later and this time a lawyer was used to put the case before the Licensing Commission. Unfortunately, again the application failed. An Appeal was lodged and again failure.

The Committee was close to giving up on ever obtaining petrol for members. By some stroke of good fortune, a committee member spoke to a good friend of his, a lawyer who was a regular visitor to Coober Pedy and was fond of the outback town and its community. He agreed to help on the basis that he would only charge fees if the case was won.

During the time since the first failed application, those responsible on the committee had gathered a significant amount of evidence to support the case.

The Tribunal heard the lawyer's submission and the case from the opposition, including the report from the Planner, which had not altered from when it was originally presented.

The lawyer for the OME in questioning the Planner, obtained a confession that he had not seen the site of the OME and was relying on information from his clients. This did not sit well with the Commission members, and they decided to take up the invitation from the lawyer to visit the OME site to make their own observations.

By this time the OME had evolved and become a busy one stop shop for opal miners. A system of computers had been installed with an accounting program improved efficiency. The Commission members in attendance were surprised as what they were presented with was somewhat unexpected and they were certainly impressed by the facility.

They returned to Adelaide and within a short period of time, the Chairman of the Commission contacted the OME Secretary to say that this application was successful and that a full petrol licence was granted. Success at last! Originally the application was for supply to members only but now the licence covered petrol sales to all.



Ivan Vanajek with the triangular diesel sign that could be seen from different angles



The diesel tank being unloaded



Tony Maric and Anne Vanajek filling the first tanker



Diesel at the bowser

The product Nitropril or ammonium nitrate is essential for miners. It is mixed with diesel and generally placed in tubes made of newspaper with a length of detonating cord inserted therein and a fuse with a detonator attached taped to the outside. This combination of explosives is placed into holes drilled into the walls of the mine. The fuse lit and the blast occurs shortly after.

Nitropril is used in large quantities by large mining operations and is therefore conveniently delivered in one tonne bulker bags. Explosives suppliers decided to stop selling the smaller 30 kg bags that were used by opal miners. This created a dilemma for miners and the OME supply. The small bags were essential to the opal mining operations.

Another challenge presented itself. OME needed to work out how to purchase nitropril by the tonne, bag it and sell it in 30 kg lots. A container was needed with a hopper filled by the bulker bags and fitted with a funnel and stopper to regulate the flow of the nitropril once the bag was filled.

This new machinery had to conform with safety requirements and be approved by the appropriate Government Departments. Again volunteers were needed. Ivan Vanajek and his son Roger designed and fabricated the hopper, steps to obtain roof access and railings all around to meet requirements. Staff acquired bags, scales, a sewing machine and thread to secure the bag tops. Then another group of volunteers filled and stacked the bags.

Bagging was done on a regular basis as stocks depleted. As this was the only outlet in the State and probably in the whole country that had a supply of manageable sized bags of nitropril, OME became well known and sales expanded.


Over the years the committee, management and staff changed and many of the older miners retired. There was no longer the demand that presented in the earlier years and eventually the committee decided to sell the OMEI.

The early years were challenging but most miners would agree that it gave the industry stability and viability for many years and added to the sense of community. Everyone who had faith and those who volunteered in so many ways are sincerely thanked for their efforts.

When it was first initiated a section of the community was not supportive of the concept and rumoured that it would fail and only last six months. It operated as a business supporting Coober Pedy's opal miners for around twenty-five years!

The Coober Pedy Regional Times thanks Anne Vanajek for her recollections on the OME evolution and to Lara and Siegmund Bruhns for sorting through Peter Bruhns extensive photographic collection of the OME history, and for giving permission for their publication.

CONTACT
Whyalla
8645 4255
Port Pirie
86331744
Kadina
88214366



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

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For more information contact
Jeremy.lambert@sacfsvolunteer.org.au
Training: Second & Fourth Wednesdays - 7:00pm
Station is open each Wednesday evening at 7pm

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Thursday	7am–3pm
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Saturday	Closed
Sunday	Closed



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1800 060 541 (FREECALL)

oasiscooberpedy@bigpond.com

ABN: 80 227 965 547

WEDNESDAY

CFS TRAINING

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

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

Saturday 21 September at 11 am
Unveiling of Memorial at site 65km east along the William Creek road. Details to come.

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



KIDS CHURCH/CLUB
Catacomb Anglican Church

Every Sunday at 10 am
(40 mins) - church starts at 9:30 am

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

ITALO AUSTRALIAN MINERS CLUB AGM



OCT 19 2024

AT 2 PM

Italian Club,
Coober Pedy
29-31 Italian Club Road

PLEASE
COME ON
TIME!

More Info :

08 8672 5105

Italianclubcp@gmail.com

ITALIAN CLUB SUCCESS, GETS DOWN TO "COMMUNITY"



Jason Pache and Julie Johnstone, the Double Jay's add to Coober Pedy's olde world culture, performing favourites from the 60s and 70s pop era on Friday nights.

In this segment they are joined by Tommy Crow and his didgeridoo



Above: Nick Farantouris (mum Cindy and dad Chris Farantouris) a familiar face around town again, and local lad Shandor Nemes now working at Mt. Barry Station.

The lads enjoyed the sunset and a beer at the Italian Club



Last Friday night Lily Tan won the meat tray raffle, presented to her by committee member Izzy Zelenko and sponsored by IGA. The success of the Italian Club surely goes to the amazing volunteer committee that attracts all generations as well as tourists and business visitors to it's family style functions.

MELBOURNE CUP DAY
AT THE ITALIAN CLUB
COOBER PEDY
Tuesday 5th November
Doors open from 12PM - 9PM
Main Race at 2.30pm

GLASS OF COMPLIMENTARY RED, WHITE OR SPARKLING SERVED WITH LUNCH

3 COURSE SET MENU PROVIDED BY CUCINARE

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL PLEASE CALL ANGEL ON 0429 087 102

SWEETS FOR THE MAIN RACE

PRIZE FOR BEST DRESSED FEMALE & MALE DONATED BY CELLARBRATIONS COOBER PEDY

SEND US A MESSAGE ON FACEBOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION

Coober Pedy Miners Association Inc.

would like to invite

all PSPP permit holders and CPMAI Members to come to the RSL for our

Annual General Meeting and BBQ

Sunday 27th October 2024
12:30 pm AGM

At the Coober Pedy RSL
Hutchinson Street, Coober Pedy

We need your continued support and are looking for new and/or experienced people who would like to nominate for a position on our committee

ACCOUNTANT - COOBER PEDY

Arid Areas Accounting
Audit & Tax
Richard Younger



These services include:

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- 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"



POSITION VACANT

MAKING A DIFFERENCE SO SOUTH AUSTRALIA THRIVES



ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS OFFICER – APY LANDS

Department for Correctional Services
Coober Pedy Community Corrections Centre

Temporary up to 12 months
Job reference: 625149
\$85,790 - \$95,413 pa (ASO5)

For more information and how to apply visit: www.iworkfor.sa.gov.au

Applications close:
11pm, 2 November 2024

IWORKFOR.SA.gov.au

For emergencies or life threatening situations call **Triple Zero (000)**

For non emergencies call the **Police Assistance Line 131 444**

To provide crime information anonymously contact **Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000**

MEMORIAL SERVICE



McCLURE, Olivia Grace

Family and Friends of Olivia are invited to attend a Celebration of her Life at the Coober Pedy Greek Hall, on SATURDAY 19 October 2024 commencing at 11am.

To reflect Olivia's bright personality, we ask guests wear something colourful.

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation in Olivia's memory to the Women's and Children's Hospital Foundation

FREE WORKSHOP RDAFN - MEETING BASICS

MEETING BASICS Training

Coober Pedy

Wednesday 30th October
6:00pm-8:00pm
Mud Hut Motel
St Nicholas Street

A FREE training session on how you and your committee can have an effective meeting.

What will you get?

- Face to face training close to home.
- Understanding the roles and responsibilities of committee members and find out who does what!
- Learn how to set up functional Agendas and Meeting Minutes.
- Explore the basic governance of committees.

PLUS lots of helpful resources to take home!!!



Register Here

For more information contact:
Leadership Program Manager
Renata Hackett
E: ljpm@rdafn.com.au P: (08) 8641 1444



Government of South Australia
Department of Primary Industries and Regions

FREE WORKSHOP - KEEPING YOUR BUSINESS SAFE

LOCALBUYING FOUNDATION
AN INITIATIVE OF THE LOCAL BUYING PROGRAM

KEEPING YOUR BUSINESS SAFE ONLINE COOBER PEDY

TUESDAY 29TH OCTOBER
6:00PM - 8:30PM
OPAL INN, HUTCHINSON ST
Free! (Light meal & refreshments included)



REGISTER HERE



Presented by Brett Moffett
SYSTEMATECH CYBER SECURITY

5 BASIC STEPS

Learn 5 basic steps to protect your businesses and clients from high-risk attacks.

SECURE PASSWORDS

Learn a simple way to manage thousands of unique passwords.

WHAT TO DO IF HACKED

Learn what steps to do to prevent the most common hacks and what to do if you do get hacked.

Want some free one on one Cyber Security mentoring?
Eligible businesses can register for complimentary 3 x hours of mentoring through the Digital Solutions Program.
Register at: <https://forms.adelaidebusinesshub.com.au/4gvjoAw>



Old Ghan Heritage Trail Signage Gets a Refresh



A major South Australian heritage trail is receiving a much-needed refresh.

In this exciting Outback Communities Authority (OCA) initiative, throughout October the Toyota Landcruiser Club of South Australia (TLCCSA) will be installing upgraded signs along the entire length of the Old Ghan Railway Heritage Trail in South Australia, from Port Augusta to Pedirka Siding.

The Old Ghan Railway Heritage Trail is a significant tourist attraction developed in 2002 by David Tarr, with core funding from the South Australian Tourism Commission, and the Northern Territory Government for the section from the SA/NT border to Alice Springs.

Following the route of the Central Australia Railway, better known as the Old Ghan Railway, the trail consists of A-frame interpretive signs sitting on old railway trolleys, dotted at key sites along the 1200km route from Port Augusta through the Flinders Ranges, along the Oodnadatta Track and up to Alice Springs.

The signs, however, have suffered the fate of anything left to bake for 20 years in the unforgiving outback sun. Many signs are cracked and faded, and some are now completely illegible. Given the significance of the Old Ghan's story to the history and heritage of many communities in Outback SA, the OCA took it upon themselves to re-work the heritage trail signage, conducting research to expand the stories told along the trail, and finding rich historical imagery and contemporary design to refresh the signs for 21st century tourism.

Simone Brock, OCA Manager of Corporate and Strategic Projects, played a key role in this project and found it highly rewarding:

"It's been fascinating to learn about the history of the Central Australia Railway and its significance in nurturing thriving outback communities during its heyday", she said. "I loved researching historic images and being transported to a time when the railway was a lifeline for people living in the outback."

The 1200km railway from Port Augusta to Alice Springs was a vital lifeline for Australia's outback. Operating between 1878 and 1980, the railway played a pivotal role in trade and transportation, while also serving as a vital link connecting remote communities to the rest of the nation. This trail provides a glimpse into Australia's rich heritage, resilience, and unwavering spirit.

The logistics of installing signage in some of Outback SA's most remote locations called for an adventurous solution, so the OCA approached the TLCCSA to assist in the installation. The TLCCSA has a core group of active volunteers who have worked on many similar projects, including restoration of old buildings throughout the outback, and doing environmental remediation and removal of pest plants in the Flinders Ranges.

Pin Needham, TLCCSA Trips Coordinator, has organised multiple teams to undertake this complex project and briefed them on the practicalities of the project. "We anticipate some challenges in removing the old signs due to rusty fragile bolts and other cleaning difficulties. The OCA have been very helpful in the preparations & logistics for the project."

Signs in Port Augusta have already been installed, with the remaining signs to be installed over the first three weeks of October.

**HERITAGE IN
FOCUS**

2024/25 Fire Danger Season dates declared

Forecast hotter and drier conditions throughout spring mean the 2024/25 Fire Danger Season will start earlier for several of the state's Fire Ban Districts.

SA Country Fire Service (CFS) has declared the season will start three weeks early for the Lower South East, and two weeks early for Eastern Eyre and Upper South East districts.

Other districts will start around the same time as last season, with only Kangaroo Island dates to be confirmed.

The Fire Season dates follow consultation with relevant Bushfire Management Committees and a final declaration from CFS Chief Officer, Brett Loughlin AFSM.

CFS Director of Community Risk and Resilience, Alison May, said Bushfire Management Committees have reported that, as predicted, dry conditions have seen all landscapes cure faster than an average spring.

"We are urging all South Australians to share the responsibility of preparing for the upcoming Fire Danger Season by preparing their properties and making or reviewing their Bushfire Survival Plans."

A permit is required for most burning activities during the Fire Danger Season or on days where a Total Fire Ban is declared.

Permits may be issued under the Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 by an authorised officer of a local council.

Dates for the Kangaroo Island Fire Ban District will be announced in coming weeks after further local consultation occurs.

For more information on restrictions during the Fire Danger Season, how to prepare your home and property for the bushfire season, and how to develop a Bushfire Survival Plan, visit the CFS website at cfs.sa.gov.au

2024/25 Fire Danger Season dates:

N.E. Pastoral: 15 October 2024 - 31 March 2025
N.W Pastoral: 15 October 2024 - 31 March 2025

Flinders: 15 October 2024 - 15 April 2025

Eastern Eyre: 15 October 2024 - 15 April 2025
Lower Eyre Peninsula: 15 Nov 2024 - 15 April 2025
Riverland: 1 November 2024 - 30 April 2025

Upper South East: 1 Nov 2024 - 30 April 2025
West Coast: 15 October 2024 - 15 April 2025
Yorke Peninsula: 1 November 2024 - 30 April 2025
Kangaroo Island: TBC
Adelaide Metro Area: 1 Dec2024 - 30 April 2025

Lower South East: 1 Nov 2024 - 30 April 2025
Mid North: 1 November 2024 - 30 April 2025
Mount Lofty: 1 December 2024 - 30 April 2025
Murraylands: 1 November 2024 - 30 April 2025



Kyam Maher MLC Attorney-General

Government to consult on ‘posting and boasting’ laws

People who seek to gain notoriety on social media by bragging about criminal exploits could face jail time under new laws the State Government is set to consult on.

The Government is moving to act to tackle the insidious trend of so-called posting and boasting, where criminal activities are filmed and shared online.

Under the proposed laws, perpetrators could face up to two years in prison.

The laws would apply to offences including violent acts, illegal activity involving motor vehicles, use of weapons or taking, damaging, destroying, removing, using, interfering with or entering property.

The draft Bill would also make it an offence for those who publish offending material regardless of whether they were actively involved in the criminal offence itself, and making practical changes to ensure the offence is not unduly broad.

Defences will be available in cases where there is a legitimate reason to post footage of illegal activity – such as informing the public, or in the course of carrying out law enforcement activities.

Targeted consultation will take place with government agencies including the Department for Education, advocacy bodies for children and young people and the legal profession from today until early November.

The Government acknowledges the efforts of the Hon Frank Pangallo MLC for the work he has done in this space and putting forward the issue to Parliament. Kyam Maher MLC Attorney-General said, “Trying to gain notoriety by seeking some form of outlaw status on social media by bragging about illegal acts can pose a serious risk to public safety.

It can undermine trust and confidence in authorities, it can encourage others to engage in criminal activities and it can glorify both criminal acts and those who engage in them.

The draft legislation we are consulting on will send a clear message that South Australia will not tolerate criminal activities and those who seek to make a name for themselves by committing dangerous, illegal acts.

I’d like to thank my Upper House colleague, the Hon Frank Pangallo MLC, for his efforts to raise awareness of this activity.”

PORT AUGUSTA DECLARED A PUBLIC PRECINCT

The Port Augusta CBD will become the first ‘Declared Public Precinct’ outside of the metropolitan area on Friday 18th October.

The initiative, **which will run for six months**, is aimed at ensuring community safety for both residents and visitors to Port Augusta.

The Officer in Charge of the Far North Local Service Area, Superintendent Paul Isherwood, said, “SAPOL continues to participate in a multi-agency response to address alcohol abuse, anti-social behaviour and community safety concerns in Port Augusta area”.

“Police take a multi-agency approach to this social issue and are regularly meeting and working with other government agencies, health partners, the Port Augusta City Council and community stakeholders,” he said.

“We will continue with this collaborative approach, but this declaration will provide additional authorities to SAPOL to maintain public order and safety within the defined area.”

Please be advised the Port Augusta CBD will be a ‘Declared Public Precinct’ from Friday 18 October 2024. The defined area is bound by the following locations:

- the western boundary of Augusta Highway / Victoria Parade extending in a straight line north to the low tide shoreline of Spencer Gulf
- the low tide shoreline of Spencer Gulf at the northern extension from Augusta Highway / Victoria Parade, extending south along the eastern low tide shoreline of Spencer Gulf to the straight line extension of the northern boundary of Flinders Terrace
- the eastern low tide shoreline of Spencer Gulf at the straight line extension of the northern boundary of Flinders Terrace, along the northern boundary of Flinders Terrace to the western boundary of Augusta Highway / Victoria Parade.

In September 2024, SAPOL made a recommendation to the Attorney General, the Honourable Kyam Maher MLC, to approve a Declared Public Precinct (pursuant to Section 66N of the Summary Offences Act 1953) for the Port Augusta CBD.

On Friday 11 October 2024, the Attorney General approved the declaration to operate for a period of 12 hours from 10am to 10pm on every day of the week.

Coober Pedy Magistrate Court

Malliotis Blvd. Coober Pedy (08) 8672 5601



Coober Pedy
Sitting dates in
OCTOBER

Monday 21 Oct
Tuesday 22 Oct
Wednesday 23 Oct
Thursday 24 Oct
Friday 25 Oct

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



The declaration will come into effect on Friday 18 October 2024 for six months, ending on Sunday 27 April 2025.

A Declared Public Precinct enables the following powers provided by Section 66 of the Act to be exercised by police:

- conduct a metal detector search of a person and any property in their possession within a declared public precinct for the presence of weapons
- carry out general drug detection in relation to any person present within a declared public precinct
- order a person or group posing a risk to public order and safety to leave the declared public precinct
- ban a person who commits an offence of a kind that may pose a risk to public order and safety, or behaves in an offensive or disorderly manner, within a declared public precinct.
- remove children from the declared public precinct who are in danger of physical harm or abuse, behaving in an offensive or disorderly manner, or otherwise committing or about to commit an offence.



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 Country Fire Service

COMMITTEE
Captain: Jeremy Lambert
2nd Lieutenant: David Frost (Frosty)
3rd Lieutenant: Ann Gerschwitz
Senior Firefighter: Linda Buckeridge
Contact:
Jeremy.lambert@sacfsvolunteer.org.au
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/813853775367739>

Coober Pedy Retail, Business &
Tourism Assoc. 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 & Rec Assoc. 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)

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 Assoc.

Committee 2024
TBA

ASSOCIATIONS

COOBER PEDY MINERS ASSOC.

Coober Pedy SA 3723
Committee Elected for 2024
President: Matt Graham, Secretary:
Monique Harding
Treasurer: John Olsson,
Committee Members: Rod Wells, Mish
Blanusa, 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)
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

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/>



Cooper Pedy Shooter's Club

Established 1974



Cooper Pedy Shooter Club welcomes all new members, visitors and Sponsors

If you don't have a firearm, come along & our members will assist you with all enquiries.
Minimum age for shooting at the club is 10 yrs (Rifles and Air Pistol)
& 10 yrs (Pistols).

Starting Times 9:00 AM

Saturday — Pistols (Military)

21 September

28 September

5 October

12 October

19 October

DISCIPLINES INCLUDE:

Air Rifle/ pistol

IPSC

ISSF

Rifle Metallic Silhouette

Combine Service

Black Powder

Service pistol

Shotgun

Steel Challenge

Cooper Pedy Shooter's Club supports:

Darts

Archery

Starting Time: 10:00 AM

Sundays .22 Rimfire 50m Benchrest

22 September

29 September

6 October

13 October

20 October

FINAL REMINDER MEMBERSHIP Renewal Now Due 2024

Single Membership \$ 100.00

Couple Membership \$150.00

Family Membership \$ 200.00

Affiliate Membership \$20.00

SSAA MEMBERSHIP DUE NOW

Sign-up online

<https://ssaasa.org.au>.... Or at the club

Any Enquires regarding Membership, sponsorships, donations, or shooting, please contact
Suzanne Bunker - - Email cpssc.treasurer@gmail.com
John Di Donna - Mobile 0427 649 389 - Email. [jdiddonna@dodo.com.au](mailto:jdidonna@dodo.com.au)

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