



# COOPER PEDY MINER'S ASSOCIATION AGM, BBQ & REPORT HELD AT RSL

The CPMAI Annual General Meeting was held at the Cooper Pedy RSL – October 2024

In attendance at the Annual General Meeting and BBQ was a mixture of old timers and past committee members combined with quite a few new faces.

Matt Graham delivered his President's report to the membership, and the following subjects were discussed.

**Magazine Update:** Earlier this year, the committee successfully reinstated our Magazine Licence. We have undertaken several initiatives, including the construction of a security fence, installation of a security system, and general maintenance.

The magazine is now open every Saturday morning from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM. For special access, please contact the number displayed at the gate.



**Strategic Plan:** Our Strategic Plan has been finalised and distributed to government agencies and interested parties. We have engaged with the Premier, the opposition, the Minister for Trade, and Eddie Hughes, the member for Giles, to discuss key areas where the State Government can support the CPMAI and the opal mining industry:

- Funding for mining roads and infrastructure
- Drill program and exploration of new opal-bearing grounds
- Training and career pathways into the opal industry
- A venue for talks, training, and a potential lapidary/jewellery workshop

**Funding and Support:** We have received RDA funding for a strategic plan and in-kind support from the Cooper Pedy District Council, including grading and administrative resources, as well as a \$10,000 annual agreement. Additionally, we have received various donations, which will be acknowledged individually.

**Membership:** We have launched a paid membership program at \$20, attracting over 100 members. This support strengthens our position when engaging with government entities. We welcome feedback on the membership structure.

**Drill Program:** We have retained the drill and are making progress on repairs and operational plans. We seek a paid operator for the drill; interested parties should contact us.

**Road Maintenance:** With support from the District Council, grading on certain road areas has begun.

The first career and pathways training module, in partnership with BHP, CEG, AMYAC, and the Miners Association, has trained five locals on roller and grader operations. This training took place on opal mining roads, with further modules planned.



CPMAI President Matt Graham, and Secretary Monique Harding at the RSL in front of the Miner's Association Notice Board

## Mining Supplies



Matt discussed stock levels for the various mining requirements with the opal miners and informed the meeting that the CPMAI had raised the funds to replenish those stocks

**Supplies will be at hand in early 2025 and we thank BHP for their assistance.**

We wish everyone a successful and prosperous conclusion to the current year, and look forward to the Gem Trade Show in the new season.

Continued page 3 (photos)

## Acknowledgements:

We extend our gratitude to all contributors for their support and look forward to continued collaboration.

Umoona Opal Mine	District Council of
Opalios	Cooper Pedy
Old Timers Mine	Department Mines &
Waffles and Gems	Energy
Blacklighters	Cooper Pedy Together
Oasis Touris Park	SafeWork SA
Mish Opals	BHP
Opals Australia	AMYAC
Opal Cave	IGA Cooper Pedy
Star Opal	Home Hardware
Placid Gems	Dianna Stepniewski
Cooper Pedy Regional	William
Times	Doug Ilic
Regional Development	Michael Skabla
Australia	Danny Hollywood
Cooper Pedy RSL	Bret Maat
	All States Accounting

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.

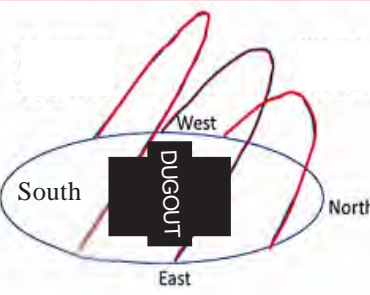
Editor - Margaret Mackay  
PO Box 10 Coober Pedy SA 5723  
Ph: (08) 8672 5920  
Email: [editor@cooberpedytimes.com](mailto:editor@cooberpedytimes.com)  
<https://cooberpedytimes.com/>

Advertising Rates

Display \$6.75 per cm/col  
Classified \$8.35 per cm/col

7 DAYS WEATHER at COOBER PEDY Oodnadatta Tarcoola Andamooka Roxby Downs

	FRI Nov 8	SAT Nov 9	SUN Nov 10	MON Nov 11	TUE Nov 12	WED Nov 13	THU Nov 14
Summary	Cloud increasing	Rain	Heavy showers	Possible shower	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly cloudy
Maximum	30°C	27°C	33°C	31°C	31°C	32°C	33°C
Minimum	14°C	19°C	19°C	20°C	18°C	16°C	17°C
Chance of Rain Likely Amount	30% < 1mm	70% 1-5mm	90% 10-20mm	40% 1-5mm	20% < 1mm	5% < 1mm	20% < 1mm
UV Index	Extreme	Very High	Very High	Very High	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme
Frost Risk	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Wind Speed	9am 26km/h S 3pm 19km/h SSW	9am 19km/h S 3pm 30km/h ENE	9am 23km/h ENE 3pm 25km/h NNE	9am 17km/h W 3pm 19km/h W	9am 20km/h SSW 3pm 23km/h SW	9am 22km/h SSE 3pm 21km/h SSW	9am 19km/h ESE 3pm 14km/h SSE



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

The Opal Capital of the World

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

\*Over 40 Nationalities 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.

Next Publishing Dates

☐ Friday 22 Nov2024

☐ Friday 13 Dec 2024

... 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

**DISCLAIMER:** Opinions and letters published in The Coober Pedy Regional Times are not necessarily the views of the Editor, or Publisher. The Coober Pedy Regional Times reserves the right to edit or omit copy, in accordance with newspaper policies. Letters to the Editor must be attributed with a name, address and contact phone number - names and town of origin will be printed, or may be withheld at the Editor's discretion. Material is published with the agreement that the contributor takes full responsibility for their submission. During the course of any election campaign, letters to the editor dealing with election issues must contain the author's name and street address (not PO Box) for publication. **Right of reply is always available.**

**Copyright Notice:** All of the content published by CPRT, including articles, photos, images, graphics, advertising, layout, printing plate content and related material, is owned by CPRT, or by other information providers who have licensed their content for use in this publication. Additionally, the entire content of the Coober Pedy Regional Times past and present is copyrighted as a collective work under Australian copyright laws and may not be reproduced without written authorisation. The owner of the collective work is Margaret Mackay

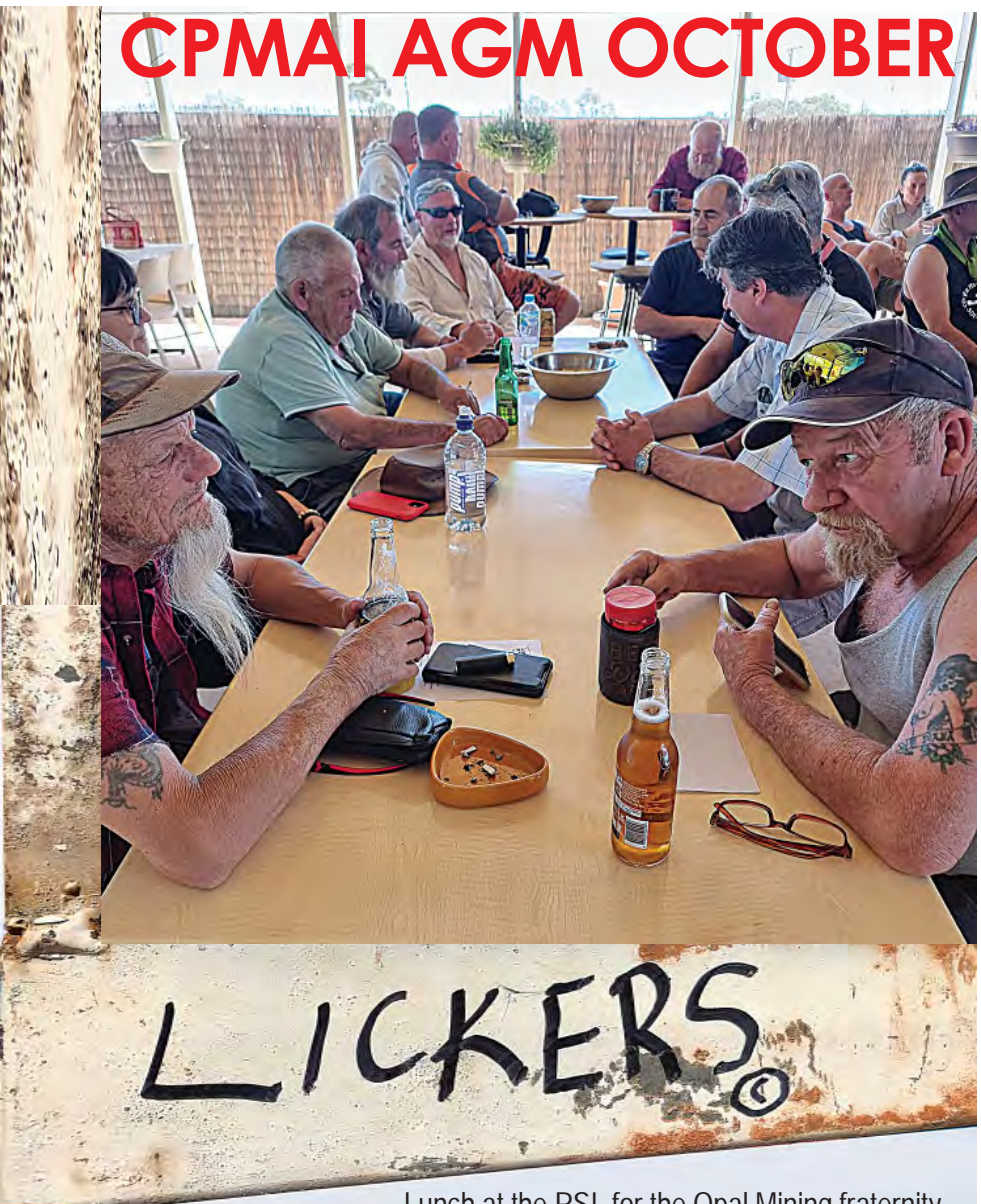
**INDEMNITY:** Advertising agencies, advertisers and other contributors accept full responsibility for the contents of advertisements and other submitted, signed material and agree to indemnify the publishers against any claim or proceedings out of the publication of such advertisements or material. Provision of material or copy for publication in the Coober Pedy Regional Times Newspaper constitutes acceptance by advertisers, advertising agencies and other contributors of this condition.

Page 2


Coober Pedy Regional Times

Friday 8 November 2024






# OPAL INDUSTRY NEWS



Active Claims as at the 7/11/2024

Coober Pedy: 460; Andamooka: 165; Mintabie: 13; Stuart Creek: 1



CPMAI - SUPPLIES

- NP \$100 per 25kg
- DTS: \$200 per box
- CDX: \$1,050 per 350 meter roll

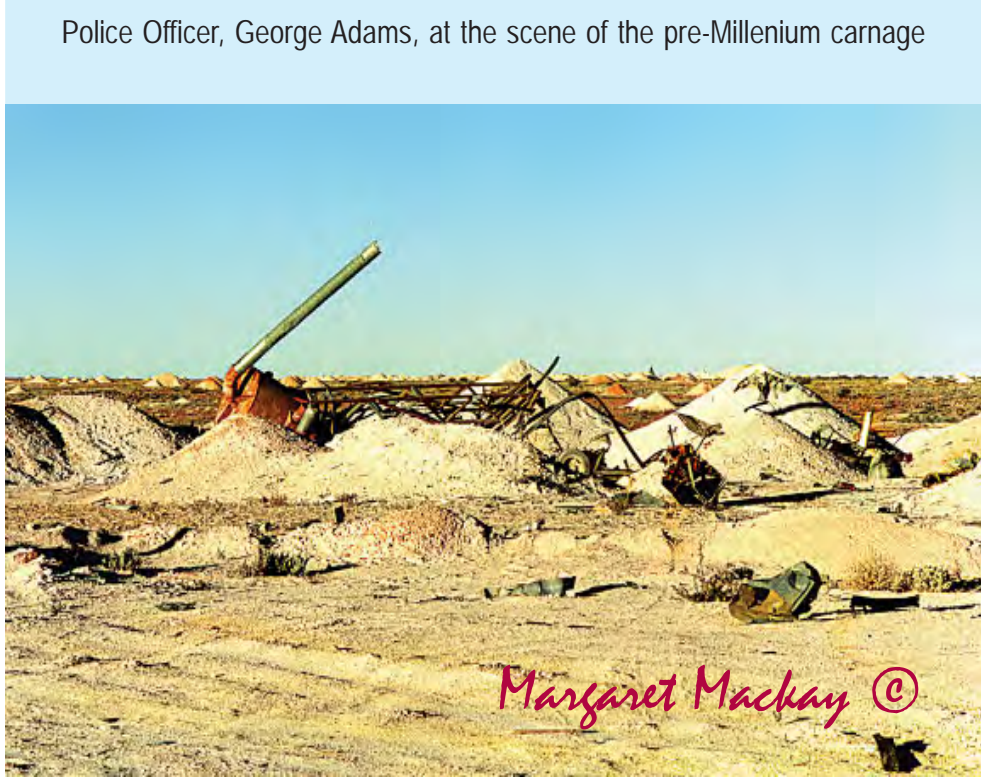
Opal Mining Act 1995

Miscellaneous—Part 9

82—Offences

(1) A person who—  
(a) mines for precious stones; or  
(b) sells, uses or disposes of precious stones recovered in the course of mining operations, without being duly authorised by or under this Act or the Mining Act is guilty of an offence.

Maximum penalty: \$150,000 or imprisonment for 2 years.





# RDA FAR NORTH DELIVERS 'KEEPING YOUR BUSINESS SAFE ONLINE' AT COOBER PEDY

In last week's session with Regional Development Australia (RDAFN), we welcomed Brett Moffett - Chief Nerd at Systematech Consulting. Brett uses his 30 years in government and private sectors to deliver easy-to-understand, actionable solutions to cyber security.

Brett guided our class (a number of small business owners) through some pressing cyber security threats that are currently impacting Australian small businesses.

According to the Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC), 43% of cyber-attacks target small businesses, making them a significant target for cybercriminals. The average financial loss for small businesses hit with a cyber-attack was \$45,965 compared to only \$4,590 in burglary!

Brett went on to explain some of the common ways that cyber-security can be compromised.

One of the most prevalent threats to small business is **email compromise** where the bad guys get your email username and password then send emails and invoices to your customers as you, or they edit invoice emails from your suppliers. They often re-write legitimate invoices to have new bank details that point to their bank accounts.

These invoices look legit, and we expect to receive them. But, if we send the money to the wrong bank account businesses can lose thousands of dollars. (Or hundreds of thousands!)

We thank Greg Williams and his team for providing our community with these valuable opportunities,



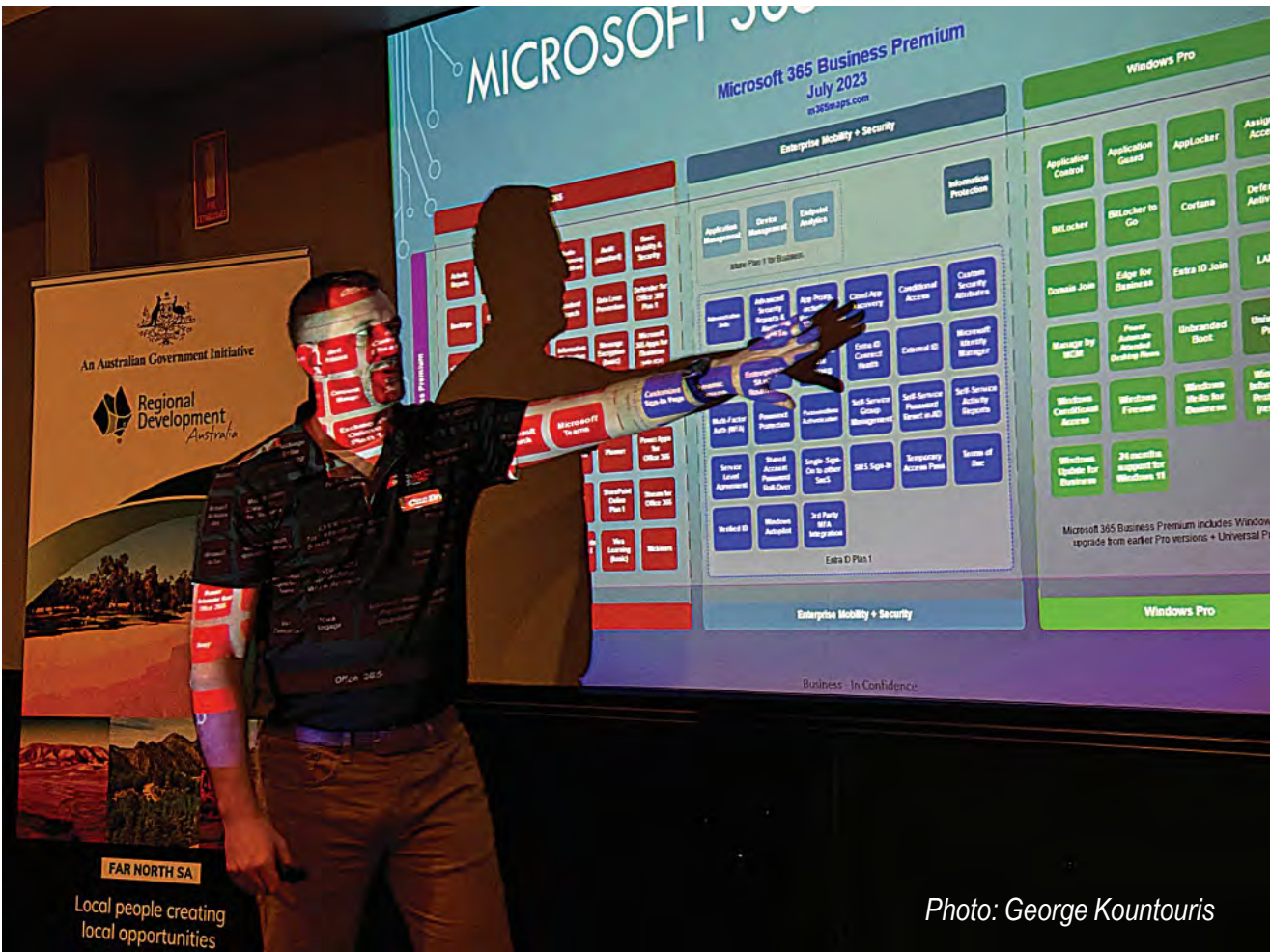
Brett Moffett delivering the Cyber-Security workshop, introduced by Greg Williams RDAFN



Ransomware turns all your files into gibberish. Back up your data!



Solutions like strong passwords and/or a password manager



Brett Moffett - Chief Nerd at Systematech Consulting conducting a cyber-security workshop at Coober Pedy last week

**Phishing attacks** are another major concern, with the ACSC noting that 76% of small businesses have encountered phishing attempts. These deceptive emails or messages trick employees into revealing confidential information or clicking on malicious links, compromising the company's security.

It's crucial for small businesses to stay vigilant and educate their employees on recognising and responding to such threats to mitigate the risk of falling victim to these cyber-attacks.

## Here are the top 5 things you need to do now:

- Have strong passwords** that are unique on each website or service. (A password manager app like Bitwarden Password Manager can help here.)
- Use 2 factor authentication** on every account where possible. This can be an authenticator app or even just an SMS code that is sent to you when you logon.

**Update your computer operating system** and applications.

Running old software can leave the door open to the bad guys.

**Do not run as an admin on your PC.** Often, we run as an administrator of our computer and by mistake may install something we didn't mean to. Same goes for our kids using our work computers to browse the internet or install games.

**Backup your data.** Backup your data often. Make sure you store it someplace safe (Not next to your computer.) and make sure you have at least 1 copy away from the office, just in case the office is destroyed.

Plenty more information can be found on the ACSC website <https://www.cyber.gov.au/>

Or for a more personalised approach, you can take advantage of the Digital Solutions Program to get one-on-one mentoring for your business. You can apply at <https://bit.ly/DigitalSolutionsSA>



Present at the Workshop: George Kountouris, Roger Bulovic, Margaret Mackay, Renata Hackett RDAFN, Fiona Hogan, Dan Measey, Joshua McDonnell, Pete Wardle, George Russell, Clarissa Bigelow, Greg Williams RDAFN, and Consultant Brett Moffett



# GEOFF SHERIDAN RESIGNS: FORMER LABOR MINISTER APPOINTED AS PRINCIPAL ADMINISTRATOR AT COOBER PEDY COUNCIL

Former Labor Minister, Patrick Conlon has been appointed as the principal administrator of the Coober Pedy Council where **he will be tasked with delivering long-term solutions for essential services for the township and returning the council to a place where it can once again be led by an elected body.**

**Mr Conlon’s appointment follows the resignation of Geoff Sheridan** due to health and personal reasons. Mr. Sheridan has served in the role since March 2023 and will provide a period of handover to Mr. Conlon to ensure continuity during the transition.

The Council was placed into administration by the former government in 2019 following findings of both the Ombudsman and Auditor-General that revealed serious financial and governance failures.

Mr Conlon will be supported by the two existing supporting administrators, Erika Vickery and John Moyle, to make joint decisions in the interests of the Coober Pedy community, as mayors and elected members do in all other council areas.

He will also be supported by Garry Herdegen, who has recently been appointed as the Council’s chief executive officer. Mr Herdegen brings more than 35 years of senior leadership and management experience within local

government, having worked in both regional and large urban councils in New South Wales and South Australia, which will be invaluable as the administrators work towards resolving long-standing issues.

The Malinauskas Labor Government’s 2024-25 State Budget invested in a review of the Council’s municipal services. This review will clarify the future services the Council will be able to provide through the rates it collects.

Mr Conlon served as a State Government minister for 11 years and held the energy portfolio for nine years. He also notably held the police, emergency services, transport, and infrastructure portfolios between 2002 and 2013.

**Mr Conlon begins as principal administrator on Tuesday, 12 November 2024**

Joe Szakacs said, ” I thank Mr Sheridan for his service in the role and commitment to the people of Coober Pedy. Under his leadership, progress has been made in launching a services review and identifying a pathway towards long-term stability for the region.”

“There is no one better qualified than Mr. Conlon to complete this work and assist the State Government in delivering a solution for the people of Coober Pedy that ensures the community has access to the services and governance it deserves.”

Patrick Conlon, incoming Principal Administrator said, “District Council of Coober Pedy is a unique part of Australia and faces particular challenges. It’s relatively young as far as councils go, and plainly has experienced some difficulties in recent times”.

“I’m confident that people there are resilient, **and we can get the Council back on track and operating without the need for an administrator** in the not-too-distant future. I’m looking forward to the challenge and to getting up and meeting with the good people of Coober Pedy next week and getting stuck in”.

Geoff Sheridan, Principal Administrator, District Council of Coober Pedy said, ” **I’m sorry that I couldn’t complete the work I came up here to do.** During my time I have enjoyed working with a committed staff and developing many personal relationships.”

“I am pleased that during the short time, we were able to address a number of governance and financial reporting shortfalls to improve the operation of Council. I wish Pat every success, and I know, like me, he will be steadfast in his commitment to helping the community and achieving positive outcomes.”

I look forward to working with him during the transition.

## Regional raids net \$1.5 million in illicit tobacco

**Raids in regional South Australia have netted more than \$1.5 million in illicit tobacco products as the Malinauskas Labor Government’s crackdown on illicit tobacco and vapes continues – as total seizures surpass \$5 million across the state.**

Consumer and Business Services has conducted close to 20 inspections of both licenced and unlicensed businesses in the state’s Mid North and Yorke Peninsula over the past few weeks with 17 per cent of our raids since July 1 taking place in the regions.

The inspections resulted in the seizure of nearly 470,000 cigarettes (including cartons, packets, and cigarette tubes filled with illicit tobacco), nearly 150 kilograms of pouch tobacco and a small number of vapes and shisha products.

The illicit tobacco and vapes, all of which was seized from unlicensed stores, was valued at approximately \$450,000.

SA Police has also been out in regional South Australia including seizing tobacco inside trucks at Tailem Bend, Monteith and Port Augusta in the past week.

The three seizures resulted in more than \$1 million of loose tobacco, cigarettes and vapes meant for sale in SA being kept off the streets.

The truck located in Port Augusta also contained tobacconist signage, shop fittings, price lists for displays with Operation Eclipse detectives believing the contents were to establish a “pop-up” shop.

Since July 1, more than \$5 million in illicit tobacco and vapes have now been seized by authorities.

Last week, the Malinauskas Government passed its nation-leading penalties in relation to the sale of illicit tobacco and vapes with penalties of up to \$1.5 million.

Consumer and Business Services is conducting more raids this week across SA with vision available here of a recent raid.

**Andrea Michaels MP, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs said,** “We will not tolerate the threat posed to our community by the criminals involved in these illegal tobacco shops.

These raids are the largest operations in regional South Australia to date and we will continue to raid tobacco shops right around the state to get these illicit products off our streets and out of our communities.

No matter where you are operating in South Australia, if you are selling illicit tobacco and vapes, you will be caught and prosecuted.

The level of product seized shows we are making inroads on this and we will continue to work in partnership with state and federal agencies including SAPOL and Border Force to crack down on the sale of illicit tobacco and vapes throughout South Australia.

**Dan Cregan MP, Minister for Police** said, “SA Police is continuing to work with Consumer and Business Services to ensure our state is as difficult as possible for criminal groups to operate in and sell their illegal products.

Enforcement action to date emphasises how seriously this issue is being taken by police and state agencies.







COMMUNITY SURVEY re: DRIVEIN MASTER PLAN		
Conducted by Sue Britt 26, 29 - 31 October 2024		
OPPOSE		
Reasons	Suggestions	Questions
2.Bullshit		
3. Waste of bloody money, Nothing wrong with what we've got		
6. Crazy idea		
8. It looks like something in the Barossa Valley, not Coober Pedy	Keep the old building – colourbond outside, gyprock internal walls	Who will manage the facility? Volunteers?
9. The moneys to build the Council can't afford. If we get donations of large companies, what do they want in return? Cost of tickets, entry will at least double, cutting locals out	Rebuild screen with volunteer builders. Clad the old building inside and out. Revamp inside. Build museum. Gaming night for kids – Play Station set on big screen	Build veranda facing the screen for seating Build BBQ area and stage, firepit
10. We just need a basic drive-in nothing flash worth millions		
11. It's not needed. All we want is the screen renewed; there is supposed to be insurance money for that. The master plan should be scrapped.	Fix the screen A.S.A.P.	Why did this plan come into being anyway?
12. I want to see the drive-in up and running – but not all the other cp that the Master Plan shows.		
13. Too much money wasted, not enough profit. Clean up what we've got.		
14. No consultation before spending our money on plans. Metro does not suit Outback Heritage	Leave history & heritage to the local experts	Question who? Too many amateurs involved.
15. We can't afford 7 million dollars. We are in so much debt as it is.	Fix up old buildings and put our own garden in. Working bees. Fundraise.	Whose idea was this? Hardly anyone knew about this.
16. 7.5 is unrealistic – we have bigger issues that affect us at the moment.	Upgrade and improve current premises	
17. Way too expensive Master Plan not suitable for Coober Pedy	Smaller building more affordable	Who will pay for the ongoing maintenance?
18. Not needed. It's supposed to be iconic as it is. Upgrade for sure but not at proposed extent		
19. Way above our needs, will have a higher than needed maintenance cost, Grants money could be spent better	Keep it simple.	Who approved the funds to do the Master Plan? What was the reason for it? What a waste of money.
20. The concept plan is so metropolitan, too modern & same design as every other city suburb	Keep or upgrade Drive-in, to keep the authenticity of the outback and vintage, but safe and workable. The least upkeep of grounds, ie grass, firepits, plants the better. We are in the desert.	
21. Proposed plan is far too city like, too expensive	Restore in the historic/workable/safe original drive-in. Keep to Coober Pedy authenticity.	
22. It's history. Leave it as it is.		
23. The Drive-in and associated area is an historic icon of Coober Pedy	Refurbish the current building by upgrading the facilities and equipment	Action: Ban Michael Edgecombe from sticking his nose into Coober Pedy affairs
24. Too expensive Not necessary		
25. Not all but half should be improved	Playground at front near screen Yes, awning at front	
26. Don't need state of the art cinemas, leave to original state	Keep as icon and nostalgic place	What will be the future costs of maintaining of the facilities such proposed in the Master Plan? Will this cost more money to the ratepayers?
27. Proposal is BS. Nothing Desert-like about the proposed building.	Return to people to decide by asking for plans- have a competition – Blend ideas of those submitted if necessary	Who came up with a city plan? Does not suit C.P.
29. Too extravagant Too much upkeep Garden would take too much water. Volunteers are spread too thinly as it is. We don't need a diving area. Too much cleaning	Simplify the surroundings.	
30. I think upgrading the drive-in is a great idea but I oppose this Master Plan. As a community to be having realistic standards. Planting trees will attract free campers, rubbish, lots of snakes. What will the cost be to up keep it when things get broken? What will watering that many plants involve?	Cut back on how many plants. Think about what kind of plants. No need to build a whole new building. We can renovate the existing building Already there and use the od film room as an attraction. Consult the community on the whole idea to minimise risks.	If the upgrade goes ahead, will the numbers of customers make a profit to sustain the upgrade being done? Is it a grant paying for the Master Plan? How are we going to maintain a clean & safe environment for children & families from snakes, rubbish, free campers, etc? From this master plan will there be a budget to hire people & give volunteers jobs, if wanted, or children an opportunity to work there.
APPROVE		
1. Because we don't have much to do here so we really appreciate all the efforts that could be made for the people of Coober Pedy	Some special events activities outdoor options should be added for weekends	
4. very innovative idea	Needs to be fixed A.S.A.P.	Hope it will last longer this time?
5. Landscaping idea good but arid plants only.	Incorporate an outdoor social area for groups to gather to watch & listen	Could it be part of Australian Film history? Few actual drive-ins left.
7. The Coober Pedy Drive-in is an important asset to the town. It brings together locals and visitors for an evening of fun and entertainment. Thanks to all the volunteers who make this event happen		How can each and everyone of us help to make this project happen?
28. Look good		

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE MEETING

Saturday 23 November 4pm,  
Italian Club, Coober Pedy



## AGENDA

- 1.) Welcome to Members (Membership forms available)
- 2.) Monthly Report including Correspondence; feedback on petitions; other
- 3.) State of Town Maintenance
- 4) Update of the Community Satisfaction Survey
- 5) Looking forward. What is Coober Pedy's future in the next five years
- 6 Public Forum - Your Say; Your Concerns

### Other Community Concerns identified are

- Rate Increases
- Water & Electricity charges
- Continued wasting of funds
- Top heavy administration
- Poorly conceived development attempts
- Avoidance of communication
- Selective Consultation
- Community anxiety & insecurity
- The off-season approaching
- A Way Forward from Administration
- What services are available to help us repair?

Sausage Sizzle - Courtesy Italian Club



# 1988: National Geographic commissioned an in-essence snapshot of Coober Pedy....

## A documentary called “Opal Dreaming”

Documentary Producer Paul Gasek and his crew spent three weeks shooting a 22 minute 16mm documentary called “Opal Dreaming” which aired on National Geographic “Explorer”.

Paul Gasek says: Forrest Gump famously said, “Life is like a box of chocolates – you never know what you’re going to get.” In 1988, I got an assignment to go to Coober Pedy.

As a 38-year-old documentary producer for the National Geographic Society, headquartered in Washington, DC, I’d never heard of the place. Whipped out the old NGS World Map and found it, waaaaay over... there! South Australia. I knew about South Australia from Justin Milne, who ran a production company back then out of a defrocked church in Adelaide. He’d visited our offices in DC a year earlier, trying to sell a film of his, titled “Caged in Fear”, about another Adelaide native, Rodney Fox.

Called him up, asked if he could support our production in Australia; he said ‘yes’ – and I was on my way. Had never been to *any* part of Australia before in my life - but this trip was not a vacation. It was a *job*, a kind of problem to be solved. The idea was to go alone first and scout the location – meet people, do things, look around, and come up with a story outline and a filming plan. Then go back sometime a little later with a little film crew.

After a couple days in Adelaide - where I bought my first RM belt and boots, I climbed onto the Kendall flight to Coober Pedy. Continuous red desert and salt pans went by below, patterns of ridges that looked like swells on a red ocean, on and on. As we descended over Coober Pedy, there were iconic piles to the horizon (??) No idea what they were or signified.

You know Coober Pedy is different right away. Deplaning, the heat and the flies were instantly intense, the sun impossibly bright, a hot wind blew dust in my mouth before I even got to the terminal. Checked into my bare bones room at the Opal Inn, took a breath. Right.

So now, my *job*, the reason the National Geographic Society had sent me all that way, was to burrow into this town and pull out its essential story, populated with local characters. Walked down and then back up the dirt track of Hutchison Street, looking at everything, taking it all in. A small town; I’m from a small fishing town, and you don’t just rock up and expect everything and everyone to open up to a stranger.

I needed introductions; went to the SA Mining Office, spoke with the officer there, explained who I was, what I was trying to do. Best thing I ever did. He got it right away, said he knew three brothers - the Marijanovics - who were good miners, and sober – which you want around explosives and blasting (?) I had no idea what he was talking about ...



Drago and Ivan Marijanovic kindly took Paul and his crew under their wing

Next day, Drago and Ivan kindly took me into their mine where I entered the true ‘down under’. It was like a giant ant farm 80 feet underground. The smell of damp sandstone, the colors, the sound of the blower – all new to me. First time in an opal mine as a 12-shot face explodes like a rippling broadside is unforgettable. The falling dust displaces with the concussion; the miners are counting. Why? Because you don’t want to set 12 shots and only hear 11 explosions. Jesus. A hundred other details, amounting to a revelation!



National Geographic TV Film Crew at Coober Pedy in 1988

L-R: Paul Gasek Filmmaker; Roger Dowling: Camera. Gerald Thompson: Assistant Camera.

Photographs Paul Gasek©

First published in the Coober Pedy Regional Times on Friday 23 April 2021



John Braun, Willie Braun



Roger (red ), Thompson (yellow,) Paul Gasek (blue), and Mike Piper (white)



Dieter Sternberg in flight with Paul Gasek and crew

This was a secret, unknown world where some people find treasure – the foundation of the story I was looking for, my own treasure. Bought a piece of rough opal we found that day to mark the occasion. Their father cut four stones from it, and I had a pendant made for my mother from the king stone. *And I licked the opal!*

That was a red letter day. After that, I met Dieter Sternberg, who took me flying and filming; June Radeka told me stories; Klaus Wieries watered his black opal; Kosta and Maria Gigos were kind; Willy and JB Braun took me noodling, many others – and took a lot of pictures. No one was going to believe me without pictures.

The last night, there was a party, a lamb on a spit. Lot of people, beer, and rum showed up. And a lot of laughs; only one little shoving match ... and I thought, if I’d found this place 10 years ago, I’d be here now!

We came back two months later, and spent three weeks shooting a 22 minute 16mm documentary called “Opal Dreaming” which aired on National Geographic “Explorer”. My friend Michael Olmert wrote the script; to this day, we still quote from it – our own personal cult classic. And Mike Piper, who was the sound recordist on the doc crew, is now an old dear friend with whom I stay when in Adelaide. He made his own Coober Pedy series, “Opal Fever”.

23 years ago, I was sent to Coober Pedy on a job – and never really left. Since then, I’ve returned 8 or 9 times, still know the Marijanovics, and always seem to miss Dieter Sternberg, who’s off in Adelaide a lot. I’ve made great new friends since then, one in particular (who will go unnamed) with whom I like to simply hang out and talk about things. Thought about buying a dugout – but covid has thrown a wrench into the works. Never made it to CPD in 2020; 2021 doesn’t look much better.

But eventually, I have to get back, catch up with my friends, see a bit of color, smell the sandstone, eat the dust, and walk in the desert dusk when the air and the light are from heaven!



June Radeka and Mike Piper in June's office



Mike Piper & Roger Dowling shooting at Breakaways





**SPECIAL EVENT**



# FILM NIGHT

**“OPAL DREAMING”**



**1988**



**ITALIAN CLUB**

**Thursday 14th November at 6.30 pm**  
(Dinner available)

In 1988 National Geographic commissioned an in-essence snapshot of the Coober Pedy way of life, for posterity.

Documentary Producer Paul Gasek (age 38) shot a 22 minute documentary which includes many familiar faces.

Paul travels to Coober Pedy each year and is currently in town. He invites you to catch up with him if you were around during the 80s, and invites anyone who would like to see this important record of life at Coober Pedy in the 80s



# Operation Storm: sees 167 DV arrests & 48 IVO's this year

07 Nov 2024 11:50am. South Australia Police have arrested a further 87 domestic violence offenders in the second dedicated and statewide anti-domestic abuse operation this year.

Police targeted 373 offenders and attended nearly 400 addresses throughout the state to issue intervention orders and ensure offender's bail conditions were met.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Linda Williams said Operation Storm has now seen the arrest of 167 domestic violence offenders and issue 48 intervention orders this year.

Our proactive approach to domestic abuse continues to show offenders that we conduct compliance checks and searches to deter ongoing offending," Deputy Commissioner Williams said.

"The two-week operation employed a deterrence approach towards perpetrators, with 135 support referrals made for offenders to access rehabilitation services."

"As a result, 85 visited the SAPOL website to access this material, showing they are willing to access services to seek assistance with their behaviour."

"This operation shows our commitment to preventing domestic abuse. We will not only take actions against offenders who pose a threat to victims, but also proactively identifying opportunities to refer offenders to behaviour change programs."

More than 400 police officers across all policing areas completed 58 bail compliance checks, charged people for 194 offences, and executed 22 warrants for the various domestic abuse offences. Ten firearms prohibition order compliance searches were conducted, and five stalking cautions were issued.

This included the arrest of a 60-year-old Eastern suburbs woman for the attempted murder of her domestic partner.

The victim was allegedly stabbed in the neck and arms and was taken to hospital. A Police Interim Intervention Order was issued, and the woman is now before the courts. Support services are being provided for the victim.

Following police enquiries, an Operation Storm target presented at a Riverland police station on October 24.

The 25-year-old was subsequently arrested for assault on his domestic partner. A Police Interim Intervention Order was issued, and the victim has been referred to a domestic violence service for support.

A 39 year old man from the Adelaide Plains was arrested after he allegedly assaulted his partner and set two cars on fire, causing \$100,000 damage.

Polair and dog operations were called in to locate the suspect, who was subsequently arrested for assault cause harm, acts to endanger live, choke, suffocate or strangle a person in a domestic setting, arson and road traffic offences. He is on bail with conditions for the protection of the victim.

Operation Storm strengthens accountability for people who choose to use violence with specific and measurable targets, as outlined in the National Plan to 'End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032'.

"SAPOL hopes these continued operations will assist in reducing rates of perpetration and intimate partner homicide," Deputy Commissioner Williams said.

"We continue to monitor and assess risk, while sharing the information with other services as part of a multi-agency response."

One such initiative is the Multi Agency Protection Service (MAPS) which shares information between agencies in managing domestic violence and related child protection matters.

The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme enables people who are in a relationship or third parties who are concerned about someone who may be at risk of domestic violence to ask information about a partner or former partner.

All members of our community have a right to be safe, contact police or go to a family violence provider if you or someone you know is experiencing family violence.

## SIZE AND COST OF AUSTRALIA'S PUBLIC SERVICE EXPLODES!

"Australians are in recession following six consecutive quarters of negative per capita GDP growth, yet they are being forced to pay for a ballooning public service, which is placing further pressure on taxpayers already facing a cost-of-living crisis," said Daniel Wild, Deputy Executive Director of the Institute of Public Affairs.

New Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) public sector employment and earnings data for the 2023-24 financial year, released today, show the dramatic increase in the size and cost of the public service at state and federal levels. IPA's analysis of the data shows:

- The total number of public sector employees as of June 2024 was 2,517,900.
- Since June 2022, there has been an additional 169,500 people employed in the public sector.
- Public sector wages and salaries cost taxpayers \$232.1 billion in FY 23-24.
- Since June 2022, there has been an additional \$31.1 billion spent on public sector wages and salaries, or a 15.5 per cent increase.
- The sectors that experienced the largest increases in the number of public sector employees were education and training, public administration and safety, and health care and social assistance. Since June 2022, there has been an additional:
  - 2,300 public sector employees within education and training.
  - 50,800 public sector employees within public administration and safety.
  - 43,000 public sector employees within health care and social assistance.

"You would be forgiven for thinking the only growth industry left in Australia is bureaucracy. Of course, what follows is the bigger the bureaucracy, the more rules, red tape, and regulation of the productive sectors of the economy and small business especially," said Mr Wild.

"The cost of Australia's public sector is exorbitant, and over just the past two years alone there has been an additional \$14 billion spent on public sector wages and salaries for no discernible improvement in service delivery to the community."

"Most Australians understand there has to be a certain number of people employed to maintain public order and ensure the efficient running of government. However, today's data shows the current size and cost of Australia's public sector is simply unsustainable," said Mr Wild.

The ABS data reinforces previous IPA research that demonstrated the need to implement regulatory reforms that lower the size of government, as well as reducing red tape, and streamlining approval processes to make it easier for private business to flourish.

"Our political leaders need to be reducing the size of government and cutting red tape to unleash prosperity and lift Australians out of recession," said Mr Wild.

"While federal and state governments continue to spend billions of dollars employing more public servants, Australians know all too well that the quality of public services in local communities have not improved, rather, they have significantly deteriorated."

"With Australia in a prolonged cost-of-living crisis, alongside a bleak economic outlook and personal recession, governments at all levels should be focused on policies that will create productive jobs within the private sector, not simply expanding their own departments," said Mr Wild.

To download the IPA's previous research click here. <https://ipa.org.au/research>

**OPAL MINERS ENTERPRISES (OME)**  
Old Water Tank Rd Coober Pedy Ph: 0400 102 551

**ELGAS**

**ELGAS SUPPLIES**  
BBQ GAS Bottles - 9 kg  
CARAVAN GAS Bottles - 4kg and 1.25 kg  
HOUSEHOLD GAS Cyclinders Large - delivery available  
Swap n' go gas 9kg available soon



## 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.

## FRIDAYS

### CP Shooters Club

See back page for latest updates

### Italian Club

Doors open Thursday and Friday from 5pm

Meals from 6pm - 8.30pm

Happy hour from 6pm - 7pm

Thursday and Friday

Meat tray raffle is on Friday from 6pm - 8pm \$5 a ticket, must be present to claim Members draw at 7pm

## Greek Charcoal BBQ



every Friday at the Greek Hall.

### Alcoholics

### Anonymous

Meet 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



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



Familiar face around town, Ronda Michell is moving to Mount Barker to take care of her brother Malcolm.

Many of us remember Ronda as one of the friendly Westpac Tellers for many years here in Coober Pedy. Ronda also worked in the office at the Miner's Store. Ronda has been involved in a number of other local activities and will be greatly missed by her friends.

Close friends Frank and Nicky Pennisi enjoyed a meal with Ronda and her brother Malcolm at John's Pizza Bar during the week.



Italian tourists take to the dance floor at the Italian Club. The music was sensational. Well done Julie Johnstone (Double Jays)



Friday 25 October saw a coach with Italian tourists, travelling from interstate, book into the Italian Club for dinner and dancing. Julie Johnstone of the Double Jays musical duo obliged the travellers with music to suit their taste including tarantellas, waltzes and tangos, while they enjoyed a sumptuous dinner and dancing.

Fellow Italian, Tania Louise Wade also visiting the outback, welcomed the travellers to Coober Pedy.

Left: Stunning sunset from outdoor dining area, Italian Club



Left - Right: Waiting for the Meat Tray to be drawn at the Italian Club are: Bill Michie, Roger Boland, George Russell, Marcus Reynolds, Nicole Reynolds and Dessi Fisher



# MELBOURNE CUP AT ITALIAN CLUB COOBER PEDY



Regular patrons and race enthusiasts gathered at the Italian Club on Tuesday afternoon to watch the running of the 164th Melbourne Cup, despite the BOM's prediction of incoming dust storms and potential rain at Coober Pedy that day.

This year wasn't a dressup kind of day for many of the locals, with temperatures already reaching 41C by 2pm. A few of the racegoers did follow tradition, and arrived looking smart, dapper and appropriately retro.

The main event of the day was held at 2pm with the top ten place getters listed below. In an interview afterwards Jockey Robbie Dolan said he was completely surprised by the win.

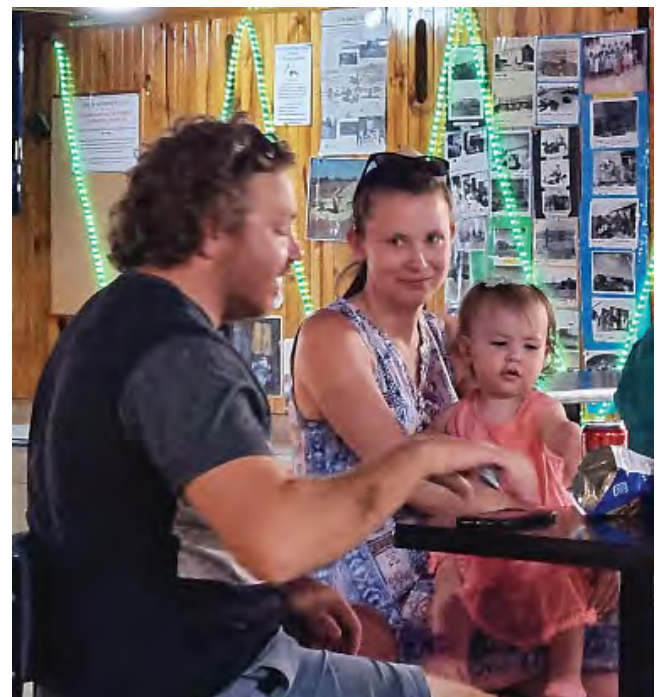
- 1.) Knight's Choice' 2.) Warp Speed; 3.) Okita Soushi; 4.) Zardozi; 5.) Absurde; 6.) Circle of Fire; 7.) Fancy Man; 8.) Land Legend; 9.) Buckaroo; 10.) Kovalica



Coober Pedy locals take some time out for the Melbourne Cup, viewing the Races on the big screen at the Italian Club and catching up with friends.



All eyes on the big screen



Corey Edwards and partner Emily Pennisi enjoy and afternoon out with their daughter



Local friends catch up for an afternoon at the Races



Marcus and Michael in foreground..Behind the bar, are: Sharon Mcfarlane and Simon Renfrey



Having some fun on Melbourne Cup day are Marcus Reynolds and Michael Farkas, Irene Spillman and Paul Gasek visiting from the United States.



# BULLS GARAGE

COOBER PEDY

*Under new management*

**IS SELLING AUTO PARTS AND ACCESSORIES  
AT HUGELY DISCOUNTED PRICES**



- **BRAKE PADS, GASKET SETS,**
- **OIL & FUEL FILTERS**



- **Large variety WATER PUMPS,**
- **ALTERNATORS,**
- **STARTER MOTORS**



- **Large range TYRES:**  
Car & Light Vehicle tyres with  
Fitting available

**YOU NAME IT AND WE'VE PROBABLY GOT IT.**



**1/LOT 2001 Hutchison St,  
Cooper Pedy SA 5723**

Monday	7am-3pm
Tuesday	7am-3pm
Wednesday	7am-3pm
Thursday	7am-3pm
Friday	7am-3pm
Saturday	Closed
Sunday	Closed



***There is no bull  
at BULLS!***



***BULLS GARAGE,  
COOBER PEDY***

***Phone:  
(08) 8672 5036***

**Oasis Family Park**  
**Hutchison Street, (end of Main Street, opposite Drive-In)**  
**08 8672 5169**  
**1800 060 541 (FREECALL)**  
**[oasiscooberpedy@bigpond.com](mailto:oasiscooberpedy@bigpond.com)**  
**ABN: 80 227 965 547**



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"



WOMEN IN BUSINESS FOUNDATION PROGRAM

**A REMINDER THAT ROUND TWO OF THE WOMEN IN BUSINESS FOUNDATION PROGRAM IS LAUNCHED AND TAKING PARTICIPANTS.**

Please see a link to further information:  
<http://business.sa.gov.au/.../women.../foundations-program>

Women in Business Foundations round two provides more mentoring and support for women in business to support women to start and grow their businesses.

The program has been a huge success since its launch in November 2022, helping more than 2000 women – many of whom are first-time business owners. Approximately 35 per cent of the women are in regional South Australia.

The latest round of the Women in Business Foundations Program provides women-led businesses with access to tailored mentoring and advisory services focussed on business growth, sustainability, and capability.

ECONOMIC RECOVER FUND

**THE ECONOMIC RECOVER FUND - GRANTS FOR SMALL BUSINESS CLOSE ON THE 29th NOVEMBER.**

Application numbers are strong, and the grant is based on a first in basis.

I would encourage any business that is considering applying to do so as soon as possible. Up to 8,000 eligible South Australian small businesses and not-for-profit organisations will soon be able to apply for Small Business Energy Grants, with \$20 million available through the second round of the Economic Recovery Fund, announced in the 2024-2025 State Budget.

The program provides between \$2,500 and \$50,000 matched dollar for dollar by the business, for energy efficient equipment or other improvements that reduce and manage energy usage and energy costs.

FAQ's <http://business.sa.gov.au/.../frequently-asked-questions>

Application Guide: <https://business.sa.gov.au/programs/small-business-energy-efficiency-grant/guide>

**AGM NOTICE**  
**Follow By General Meeting**

COOBER PEDY SHOOTERS CLUB  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**WHEN**

SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 24

**VENUE**

COOBER PEDY SHOOTERS CLUB

**TIME: 1.00PM**

ALL POSITIONS WILL BE DECLARED OPEN.  
IF YOU HAVE ANY BUSINESS TO DISCUSS PLEASE NOTIFY SECRETARY, SO IT CAN BE TABLED FOR DISCUSSION.

**IT IS FOR THE CLUBS INTEREST THAT YOU PARTICIPATE.**



**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

**COOBER PEDY REGIONAL TIMES**

Editor@cooberpedytimes.com  
Tel: 08 86725920



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](mailto:rowan.ramsey.mp@aph.gov.au)

**DISCLAIMER:**

- 1) Opinions, Letters and Public Notices published in The Coober Pedy Regional Times are not necessarily the views of the Editor, or Publisher.
- 2) The Coober Pedy Regional Times reserves the right to edit or decline copy, in accordance with newspaper policies.
- 3) Due to fears of bureaucratic victimisation of whistleblowers, and allegations of bullying, community members or writers may use a "PEN NAME" but must provide correct details for our files



COOBER PEDY Country Fire Service

In an EMERGENCY - Ring Triple Zero - 000  
For more information contact

[Jeremy.lambert@sacsvolunteer.org.au](mailto:Jeremy.lambert@sacsvolunteer.org.au)

Training: Second & Fourth Wednesdays - 7:00pm  
Station is open each Wednesday evening at 7pm



# Your Complete Home Selling Guide From Listing to Settlement:

## Seven essential steps from LocalAgentFinder

Selling your home can be a complex process, especially in the current Australian property market. With ongoing talk of shifts in interest rates and changing buyer preferences, it's crucial to approach the sale strategically with the right advice from experts who understand the market. LocalAgentFinder provides a comprehensive, step-by-step guide to ensure your selling journey is a smooth one.

### 1. Understand the market conditions

CoreLogic's September reports note that Australian dwelling values continue to rise, with the national Home Value Index increasing by 0.5% in August, marking the 19th consecutive month of growth. The national median dwelling value has reached \$802,357, a 7.1% annual increase. Capital city performance varies, with Perth, Adelaide, and Brisbane leading in gains, while Melbourne, Canberra, Darwin, and Hobart saw slight declines. Sydney's growth has moderated to 0.3% monthly and 5.0% annually. Notably, Melbourne's median dwelling value (\$776,044) now trails behind Adelaide (\$790,789) and Perth (\$785,250).[1][2]

Whilst these market changes suggest the opportunity to make solid gains, it's important to get the most accurate read on market conditions specific to your location and property. Speaking with a knowledgeable real estate agent who understands local trends and dynamics is one of the first steps you should take to understand how these market shifts relate to your specific situation.

### 2. Get a Professional Valuation

Accurately pricing your property is key to attracting serious buyers and achieving the best outcome. While professional valuations provide a baseline estimate, your real estate agent offers deeper, practical insights. By analysing recent sales of comparable properties, buyer demand, and shifts in the local market, agents provide a more dynamic and up-to-date perspective on your property's value. This context is crucial - not just to setting the right price but also to shaping a sale strategy that resonates with current buyers. Engaging an experienced agent ensures your property is priced to minimise time on the market while maximising appeal to the right buyers.

### 3. Choose the Right Real Estate Agent

Choosing the right real estate agent is crucial for a successful home sale. Agents with a strong local track record, negotiation skills, and positive client reviews are key. When evaluating agents, consider:

- Sales history and performance
- Local market knowledge
- Marketing strategies
- Communication style and responsiveness
- Commission rates and fee structures

Using data and insights about agents helps you make a well-informed decision. It's also important to feel comfortable with the agent you choose, as a good working relationship can make the selling process more straightforward and less stressful.

This is also the ideal time to appoint a conveyancer. Your agent and conveyancer work together to manage the legal and administrative aspects of the sale, ensuring the transaction progresses smoothly from offer to settlement.

### 4. Preparing Your Home for sale

To attract potential buyers, it's important to present your home in the best possible light. Start by addressing visible wear and tear, such as repairing leaky taps, replacing outdated fixtures, and fixing wall imperfections to create a well-maintained and modern look.

A skilled real estate agent with a strong brand can amplify your property's reach by using a range of marketing channels to connect with the right buyers. Professional photography that highlights your home's best features is crucial, and a well-established agent will know how to use their network to promote your property across multiple platforms, from traditional advertising to social media.

Cameron Way, Managing Director of Woodward's Blackburn and part of the LocalAgentFinder network, notes, "In today's market, a well-executed social media strategy can make all the difference.

First impressions count, and we've seen properties sell faster and attract more serious buyers when we combine professional photography with targeted social campaigns. It's also important not to ignore garden maintenance, as a well-presented exterior sets the tone for potential buyers from the moment they arrive."

### 5. Setting the price and negotiating

Price your property competitively based on valuation and market conditions to avoid deterring buyers or undervaluing your asset. Prolonged market presence can raise concerns about potential issues with the home.

Cameron says, "Timing is everything and can be the difference between success and failure. Selling too soon could mean underselling, and waiting too long can have a similar outcome.

It's important to consider the average days on market in your area, as this will guide you on how long it should take to sell your property at an optimal price. If your property is priced fairly and in line with comparable sales, a reasonable guide is between 25-30 days. Exceptions can occur due to factors such as supply and demand, migration, buyer sentiment, economic conditions, and the historical performance of the suburb."

### 6. Accept an offer and sign the contract

Once you accept an offer, the next step is to sign the contract of sale. Ensure all terms are clear, and both parties understand their obligations. The contract should include details like the sale price, deposit amount, settlement date, and any special conditions.

### 7. Prepare for settlement

Settlement, the final step in the selling process, involves transferring ownership to the buyer and typically takes 30 to 90 days. Having a conveyancer on board from the beginning - ideally when you appoint your real estate agent - ensures you are well-prepared to accept offers and can streamline the entire process. Early engagement allows your conveyancer to organise key documents in advance, minimising delays and keeping everything on track.

Jared Zak, Principal Solicitor and Director of Dott & Crossitt, underscores this point: "Getting all the documents sorted well in advance is key. We've seen that taking the time to do this properly can avoid last-minute problems and make the handover smooth and hassle-free. It not only saves time but also gives both sellers and buyers peace of mind."

Throughout the settlement period, maintain open communication with your conveyancer, real estate agent, and the buyer's representatives. This ensures all parties stay aligned and allows for quick resolution of any last-minute issues, facilitating a smooth transition of ownership.

For more information, please visit <https://www.localagentfinder.com.au/>.

## Court registry operating hours

Tuesday, 24 December 2024 to  
Thursday, 2 January 2025

### Supreme, District and Environment, Resources and Development Court Registry

The court registry located in the Sir Samuel Way building will close at 4:30pm on Tuesday, 24 December 2024 and reopen on Thursday, 2 January 2025.

### Probate Registry

The Probate Registry will close at 12.00pm on Tuesday, 24 December 2024 and reopen on Thursday, 2 January 2025.

### Magistrates Court Registries

Adelaide, Suburban and Country registries remain open during the holiday period, with standard operating hours of 9:00am to 5:00pm, except on public holidays. Registries will close at 4.30pm on Tuesday, 24 December 2024.

### Adelaide Youth Court Registry

The Youth Court registry remains open throughout the holiday period with standard operating hours of 9.00am to 5.00pm, except on public holidays. The Registry will close at 4:30pm on Tuesday, 24 December 2024.

### Coroners Court Registry

The Coroner's Office remains open throughout the holiday period, excluding public holidays.

### Sheriff's Office Registry

The Sheriff's Office Registry in the Sir Samuel Way Building will close at 12:00pm on Tuesday, 24 December 2024 and will reopen on Thursday, 2 January 2025. For urgent or after-hours security matters please call 0437 272 902.

### CAA Media Office

The CAA Media Office will close on Tuesday, 24 December 2024 and will reopen on Monday, 20 January 2025. For media enquiries during this period contact CourtSA Registry Services on (08) 8204 2444 or email: [media@courts.sa.gov.au](mailto:media@courts.sa.gov.au).

For all other queries contact CourtSA Registry services on (08) 8204 2444 or email: [enquiry@courts.sa.gov.au](mailto:enquiry@courts.sa.gov.au) or refer to the CAA website: [www.courts.sa.gov.au](http://www.courts.sa.gov.au)

## Court Listings during the holiday period

### Supreme Court

Hearings resume the week of 27 January 2025. A Supreme Court Judge will be available on call over the closure period.

### District Court

Hearings resume the week of 13 January 2025. A District Court Judge on call over the closure period.

### Environment, Resources and Development Court

Hearings resume the week of 13 January 2025.

### Magistrates Court

Only the Magistrates Court at Adelaide and Elizabeth will sit on Friday, 27 December 2024, Monday, 30 December 2024 and Tuesday, 31 December 2024 and hear overnight custodies/arrests where police bail is refused as well as any urgent applications for the State. Regular listings will resume on Thursday, 2 January 2025.

### Youth Court

The Youth Court will sit on Friday, 27 December 2024, Monday, 30 December 2024 and Tuesday, 31 December 2024 to hear overnight custodies/arrests related to young people and urgent care and protection matters. Regular listings will resume on Thursday, 2 January 2025.

### Coroners Court

No inquests are scheduled from Tuesday, 24 December 2024 to Thursday, 2 January 2025.



Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission

NATIONAL WASTEWATER DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM | REPORT 23



REPORT 23

NATIONAL WASTEWATER DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM

Report 23 of the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program is based on data collected in April (capital city and regional sites) and June 2024 (capital city sites only). The report provides a comprehensive picture of Australia's illicit drug markets and drug consumption habits.

ACIC CEO Heather Cook said that many Australian illicit drug markets are supplied by serious and organised crime (SOC) groups, with no regard for our laws or the harm their illegal trade causes.

**“Much of the harm Australians suffer at the hands of organised crime is due to illicit drugs. These harms may include negative impacts and consequences on the physical and mental health of users and their families, related acts of violence including serious assaults and murder, property crime and dangerous traffic offences,”** said Ms Cook.

“Australia continues to be exploited by organised crime, costing the nation up to \$60 billion each year, of which \$16.5 billion is the result of illicit drug activity. The heads of criminal networks are driven by greed and will go to great lengths to maximise profits and power.”

Despite large seizures during the latest reporting period, organised crime networks continued to fuel Australia's demand for illicit substances. Wastewater data reveal that, despite a decrease in national cocaine consumption since December 2023, consumption remains higher than pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels, signalling a possible longer-term expansion of the market. Current methylamphetamine consumption is above long-term average levels, but not quite to the levels prior to COVID-19.

“Serious and organised crime groups are highly capable, well-resourced, resilient and increasingly transnational. They threaten our community safety, they threaten the integrity of our borders, and they threaten and undermine our financial systems, government-funded programs and our most vulnerable people. However, Australians are also relatively high per capita users of illicit drugs and are willing to pay top dollar,” said Ms Cook.

Wastewater analysis is one of the most cost-effective, least intrusive methods of measuring drug use and demand at a population level.

### CONCLUSIONS

For the 23rd report of the NWDMP, wastewater analysis was conducted in April (capital city and regional sites) and June 2024 (capital city sites only). The Program identified variations in patterns of drug consumption over time and within and between jurisdictions. Consistent with previous reports, findings show that of the substances monitored with known doses, nicotine and alcohol remain the most consumed licit drugs in Australia. Cannabis was the most consumed illicit drug in Australia, followed by methylamphetamine.<sup>5</sup>

### METHYLAMPHETAMINE

When comparing data for December 2023 and April 2024, the population-weighted average consumption of methylamphetamine decreased in capital city sites and remained relatively stable in regional sites. Average capital city methylamphetamine consumption then increased from April to June 2024. Average regional methylamphetamine consumption exceeded capital city consumption. In April 2024, Adelaide had the highest estimated average capital city consumption of methylamphetamine, while Western Australia had the highest average regional consumption.

### COCAINE

When comparing data for December 2023 and April 2024, the population-weighted average consumption of cocaine decreased in both capital city and regional sites. Average capital city cocaine consumption further decreased from April to June 2024. Average capital city cocaine consumption continued to exceed average regional consumption. In April 2024, Sydney had the highest estimated average capital city consumption of cocaine, while Queensland had the highest average regional consumption.

### 3,4-METHYLENEDIOXYMETHYLAMPHETAMINE (MDMA)

When comparing data for December 2023 and April 2024, the population-weighted average consumption of MDMA decreased in capital city sites and increased in regional sites. Average capital city MDMA consumption then decreased from April to June 2024. Average regional MDMA consumption exceeded capital city consumption. In April 2024, Melbourne had the highest estimated average capital city MDMA consumption, while Queensland had the highest average regional consumption.

Cooper Pedy Magistrate Court

Malliotis Blvd. Cooper Pedy (08) 8672 5601



Cooper Pedy Sitting dates in DECEMBER

Monday 9 Dec  
Tuesday 10 Dec  
Wednes 11 Dec  
Thursday 12 Dec  
Friday 13 Dec

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

### 3,4-METHYLENEDIOXYAMPHETAMINE (MDA)

MDA is a metabolite of MDMA, but also an illicit drug in its own right. When comparing data for December 2023 and April 2024, MDA excretion<sup>6</sup> decreased in both capital city and regional sites. Average capital city MDA excretion further decreased from April to June 2024. Average capital city and regional MDA excretion was very similar. In April 2024, Hobart had the highest estimated average capital city excretion and Tasmania the highest average regional excretion of MDA.

### HEROIN

When comparing data for December 2023 and April 2024, the population-weighted average consumption of heroin decreased in capital city sites and increased in regional sites. Average capital city heroin consumption then increased from April to June 2024. Average capital city heroin consumption continued to exceed average regional consumption. In April 2024, Melbourne had the highest estimated average capital city consumption and Victoria the highest average regional consumption of heroin.

### CANNABIS

When comparing data for December 2023 and April 2024, the population-weighted average consumption of cannabis increased in both capital city and regional sites. Average capital city cannabis consumption decreased from April to June 2024. Average regional cannabis consumption continued to exceed average capital city consumption. In April 2024, Hobart had the highest estimated average capital city consumption of cannabis, while South Australia had the highest average regional consumption.

### KETAMINE

When comparing data for December 2023 and April 2024, the population-weighted average excretion of ketamine increased in both capital city and regional sites, with the capital city and regional levels the highest recorded by the Program. Average capital city ketamine excretion decreased from April to June 2024. Average capital city ketamine excretion continued to exceed regional ketamine excretion. In April 2024, Melbourne had the highest estimated average capital city excretion of ketamine and Victoria the highest average regional excretion.

### OXYCODONE

When comparing data for December 2023 and April 2024, the population-weighted average consumption of oxycodone decreased in both capital city and regional sites, with the regional level the lowest recorded by the Program. Average capital city oxycodone consumption further decreased from April to June 2024. Average regional oxycodone consumption continued to exceed average capital city consumption. In April 2024, Hobart had the highest estimated average capital city consumption of oxycodone, while Victoria had the highest average regional consumption.

### FENTANYL

When comparing data for December 2023 and April 2024, the population-weighted average consumption of fentanyl decreased in both capital city and regional sites, with the regional level the lowest recorded by the Program. Average capital city fentanyl consumption then increased from April to June 2024. Average capital city fentanyl consumption exceeded average regional consumption for the first time in April 2024. In the same month, Hobart had the highest estimated average capital city consumption of fentanyl, while South Australia had the highest average regional consumption.

### NICOTINE

When comparing data for December 2023 and April 2024, the population-weighted average consumption of nicotine decreased in both capital city and regional sites. Average capital city nicotine consumption further decreased from April to June 2024. Average regional nicotine consumption continued to exceed average capital city consumption. In April 2024, Darwin had the highest average capital city consumption of nicotine and Northern Territory<sup>(7)</sup> the highest average regional consumption.

### ALCOHOL

When comparing data for December 2023 and April 2024, the population-weighted average consumption of alcohol decreased in both capital city and regional sites. Average capital city consumption further decreased from April to June 2024, to the lowest level recorded by the Program. Average regional alcohol consumption exceeded average capital city consumption. In April 2024, Darwin had the highest average capital city consumption of alcohol and the Northern Territory<sup>(8)</sup> the highest average regional consumption.



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 Cormer, 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 Elected 20/10/2024**  
Chairperson: Trish Turner  
Secretary: Jenny Davison  
Treasurer: Sue Britt  
Public Officer: Yuko Castles  
**Contact: cooberpedyhs@gmail.com**

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/>

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

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  
Gary Herdegen DCCP  
We are currently waiting on our  
representatives from the Umoona Community

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/>


Coober Pedy Italian Club Inc

**Committee Elected 19/10/2024**  
Brett Smith President,  
Nicko Farantouris Vice Pres  
Deanna Smith Secretary,  
Cat Bell (Treasurer)  
Tara Jane Smith,  
Izzy Zelenko,  
Nick Farantouris (Jr)  
Karen Harvey,  
Rosslyn Jazepczyk;  
Peter Cech,  
Brad Jeffree.

Coober Pedy GEM TRADE  
SHOW Assoc.


**Committee 2024 TBA**





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 (IPSC)

26 October

2 November

9 November

16 November

23 November

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 FLY Benchrest

27 October

3 November

10 November

17 November

AGM MEETING

24 November

**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](mailto:cpssc.treasurer@gmail.com)  
John Di Donna - Mobile 0427 649 389 - Email. [jdidonna@dodo.com.au](mailto:jdidonna@dodo.com.au)

Page 17

Cooper Pedy Regional Times

Friday 8 November 2024