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<https://cooperpedytimes.com>

Friday 7 February 2025

RDA FAR NORTH DELIVERING VITAL PROGRAMS TO THE FAR NORTH

This past week saw a welcome visit from the Regional Development AU Far North Team Greg Williams and Tara Hogg who are busy organising suitable workshops for delivery to the Far North Towns and Communities in 2025.

Early on Thursday morning Greg (Regional Business Development Manager) and Tara (Tourism and Communications Manager) met with committee members of the Coober Pedy Community Alliance to discuss their views on the workshops that might benefit the Coober Pedy Community.

Keeping your Business Safe Online with Brett Moffett will be held at John's Pizza Bar on Tuesday 25 March, 2025 from 5.30 until 8.30.

Those of you who attended Brett's first session last year of *Keeping your Business Safe Online* will appreciate the depth of safety that is necessary in a fast evolving technical world. We are deeply grateful for the return of Brett and his workshop.

We also welcome Renata Hackett again this year. Renata is the RDA Leadership Program Manager. In 2024 the Far North Region was privileged to have *Committee Basics* presented to them by Renata.

In 2025 we are graduating to *Meeting Basics* as we expand our understanding and practice further into the world of leadership where constantly referring to our organisation's constitution will guarantee a successful committee experience for everyone involved and help provide balanced outcomes.

Meeting Basics with Renata Hackett will be held in Coober Pedy at the Mud Hut on Tuesday 25 March @ 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Renata comes with several years of experience, leading her own consultancy business, working with a diverse range of clients to develop their marketing, create business plans, provide business solutions and update systems and procedures. These experiences have given Renata the opportunity to work with a broad network of people, associations and industry groups across the region.

We encourage all groups and their members to book in for these free courses.



L-R: Tara Hogg RDA Tourism & Communications Manager; Teena and George Rosewarne Coober Pedy Community Alliance, Greg Williams, Regional Business Development Manager in Coober Pedy last Thursday.

Greg Williams Regional Business Development Manager fielded potential workshop suggestions from the Alliance Committee and as a result will pursue avenues to help bring us a Grant Writing Workshop, and also a Financial Literacy workshop that may help our community understand the complex financial presentations of the latest few councils.

Greg enjoys working with communities and businesses and assisting them to be the best they can be sharing his experience and knowledge gained over many years in his own small business. Over the years he has gained a vast amount of experience and knowledge in business management all of which he passes on freely to the communities in the Far North. Thank you Greg!

Tara Hogg is the Tourism and Communications Manager at RDA. Tara was born and raised in Port Augusta, spending her childhood weekends at the family shack, camping, and travelling around the state for sporting carnivals.

Since 2006, Tara has been coming and going from Australia, living, working, and traveling to over 30 different countries. She has a variety of work experience in backpackers, hotels, cafes, and travel consultancy, which is complimented with a Certificate III in Tourism through TAFE SA.

To add to her armoury of skills, in 2024 Tara graduated from the University of South Australia with a Bachelor of Communication which she gained skills in journalism, public relations, marketing, strategic planning and communication management, social media management, traditional and emerging digital media platforms and content creation.

Tourism & Marketing support with a view to Accreditations

The Coober Pedy Retail, Tourism and Business Association Committee had a consultation session with Greg and Tara regarding potential workshops for the business and tourism sector.

"Tara will be assisting us in advisory capacity with tourism and marketing support," said Chair of the Association George Kountouris.

"The CPRTBA is proud to be working with Greg and Tara from the Regional Development Australia Far North. It is good to have a group so interested in assisting businesses in Coober Pedy at no cost to our businesses or our residents."

The CPRTBA will be working closely with them working towards an accreditation, initially for Opal Sales, to ensure we are all complying with the 'Opals Trade Standards Act 1979' from the office of Consumer and Business Affairs.

We need consumers to have faith in the product.

They will also be conducting workshops to improve the business standards and ultimately to ascertain a Tourism Accreditation.

The RDA have the full support of the CRBTA



Renata Hackett

SERVING THE OPAL CAPITAL OF THE WORLD SINCE 1982

ABOUT US

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

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

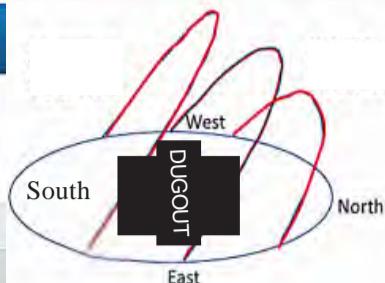
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<https://cooberpedytimes.com/>

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7 DAYS WEATHER at COOBER PEDY Oodnadatta Tarcoola Andamooka Roxby Downs

	SAT Feb 8	SUN Feb 9	MON Feb 10	TUE Feb 11	WED Feb 12	THU Feb 13	FRI Feb 14							
Summary														
Maximum	39°C	39°C	42°C	44°C	45°C	38°C	29°C							
Minimum	23°C	22°C	24°C	28°C	31°C	24°C	19°C							
Chance of Rain Likely Amount	5% < 1mm	5% < 1mm	5% < 1mm	5% < 1mm	40% 1-5mm	20% < 1mm	30% < 1mm							
UV Index	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme							
Frost Risk	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil							
Wind Speed	29km/h S	21km/h S	26km/h SSE	17km/h SSW	21km/h ESE	8km/h SW	23km/h ENE	12km/h NE	31km/h NE	18km/h N	38km/h SW	31km/h SSW	33km/h SSW	24km/h SSW



Autumn 2025 March equinox
20 Mar 8:01 pm

Winter 2025 June solstice
21 Jun 12:42 pm

Spring 2025 Sept equinox
23 Sep 4:19 am

MAILING LIST

Send an email to be included on emailing list

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

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



Pres. CRBTA
Opal Miner/Trader

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 of South Australia.



John Di Donna
Opinion & Commentary

Local Scribes

Bi Monthly

The Opal Capital of the World

An Historic, Underground Town built on the back of OPAL MINING.

OPAL = AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL GEM

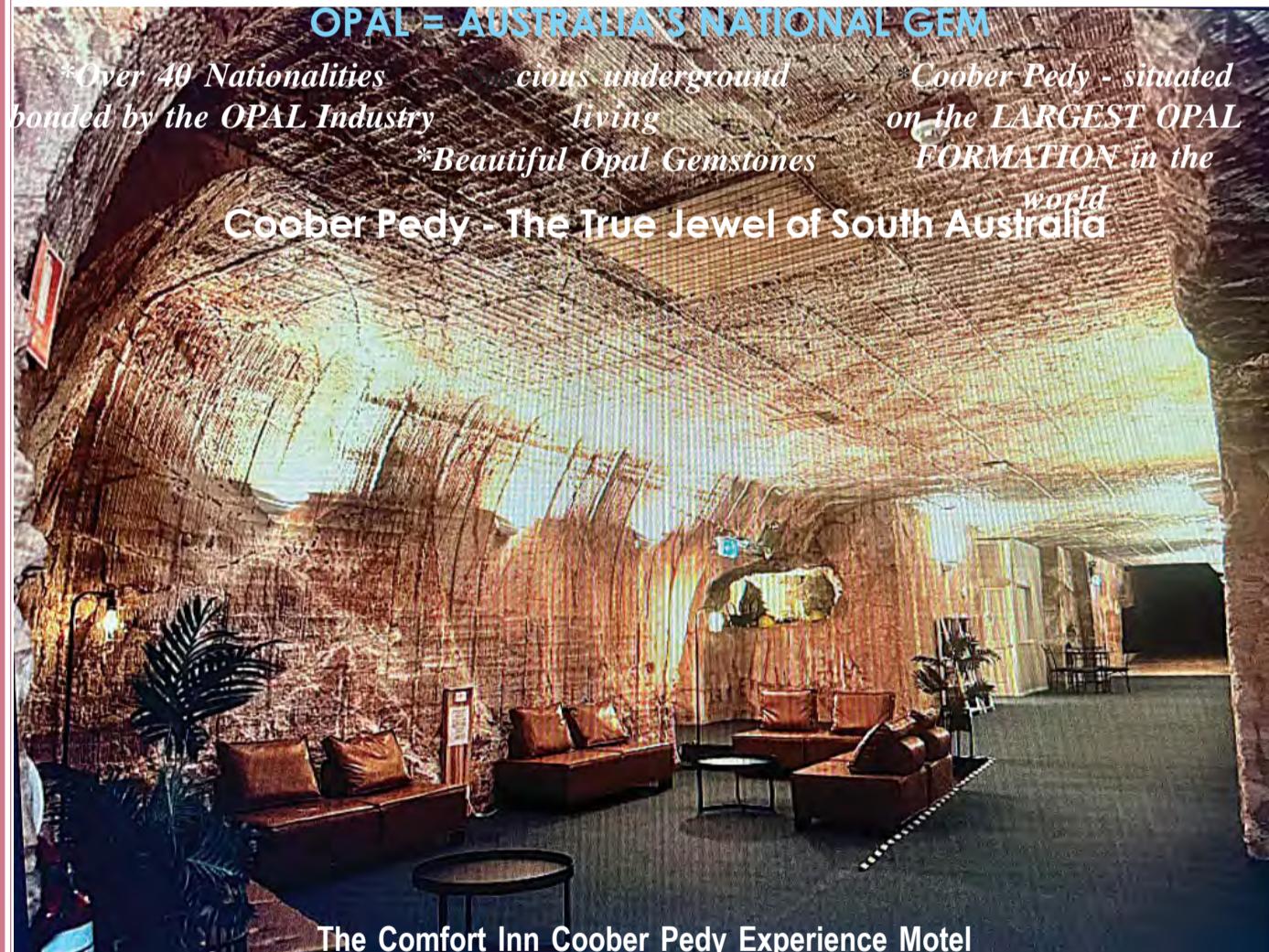
*Over 40 Nationalities bonded by the OPAL Industry

acious underground living

*Beautiful Opal Gemstones

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

Coober Pedy - The True Jewel of South Australia



The Comfort Inn Coober Pedy Experience Motel

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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 21 Feb 2025
- Friday 07 Mar 2025
- Friday 21 Mar 2025

... 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 Seacill

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.

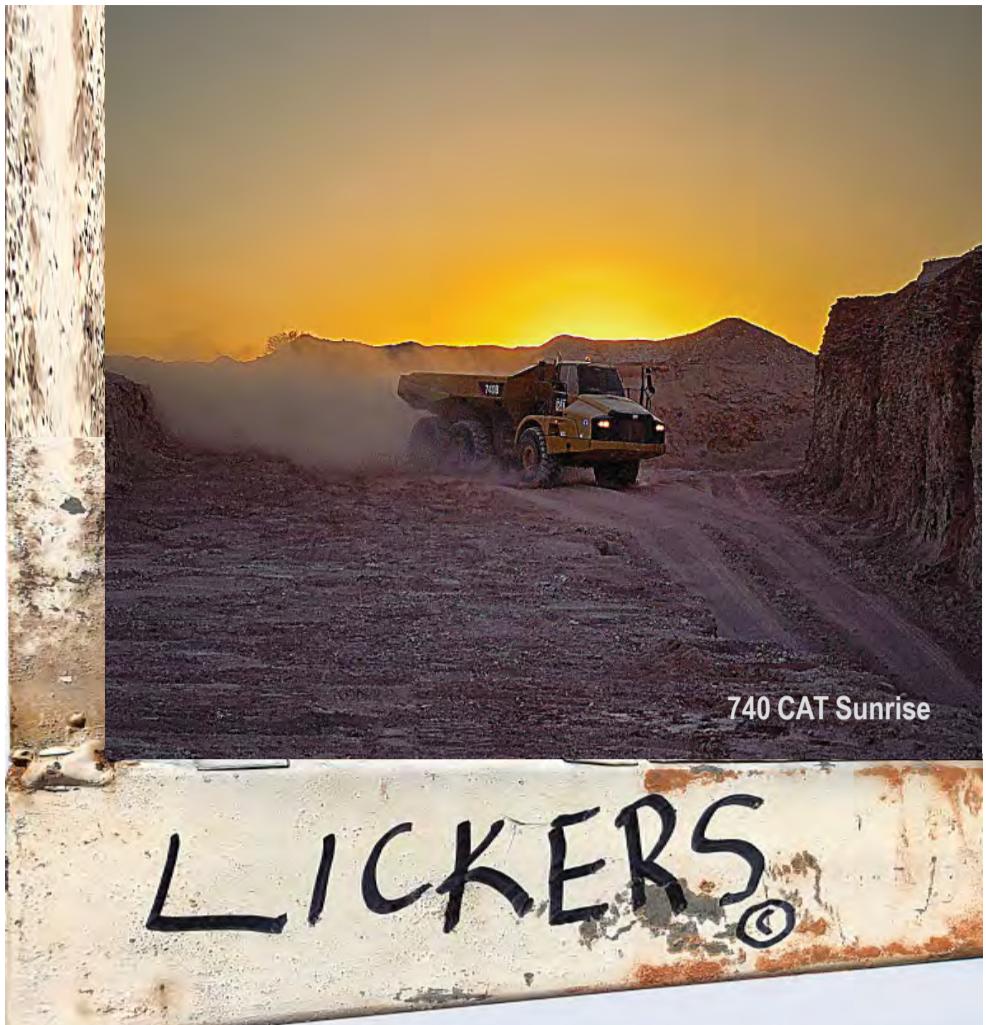
1.) GROUPS & SPONSORSHIP

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.



Active Claims as at the 06/2/2025

Coober Pedy: 450; Andamooka: 160;
Mintabie: 10; Stuart Creek: 1



"Amnesty Period"



for
OPAL MINERS
Still Active



15 December 2024 and
14 March 2025 inclusive

EPA - Illegal Dumping

Unlawful disposal of waste:

Individuals who dispose of waste illegally could be fined up to \$120,000 and face up to two years imprisonment

and corporations face fines of up to \$250,000, under clause 10 of the Environment Protection (Waste to resources) Policy 2010.

Licensed waste transporters could even have their EPA licence revoked.

Causing environmental harm:

If you dump waste and the dumping causes serious environmental harm you could be liable for a fine of up to \$500,000 or four years imprisonment,

or both, and corporations face fines up to \$2 million under section 79 of the Environment Protection Act 1993.

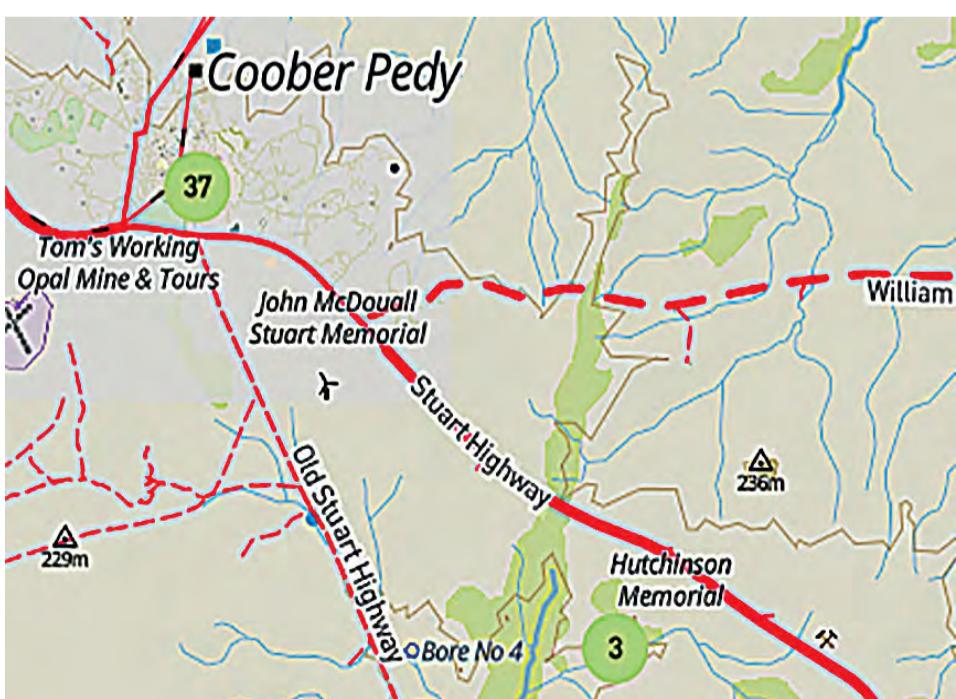
The Black Flag Ballot "Stuart's Run" will go ahead in March 2025

"Stuart's Run"

John McDougall Stuart.
First to cross Australia (South to North).

Stuart Highway: Runs from Port Augusta to Darwin.

The "Old Adelaide Road at Coober Pedy was part of the "original" Stuart Highway.



ICAC - NEW INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION STARTS WORK BEHIND THE 8-BALL



Emma Townsend,
Commissioner,
Independent
Commission
Against Corruption
began work at
ICAC on 3rd
February 2025.

Statement: Today I am honoured to commence as the Commissioner of South Australia's Independent Commission Against Corruption.

Public integrity has been a driving force in my career, and I am looking forward to taking on the challenges involved in identifying, investigating and preventing corruption in public administration.

There will be some time spent in "business as usual" mode as I seek to understand the organisation, its current investigations and projects, and get to know the people. I will be making a submission to the inquiry being conducted by the parliamentary Crime and Public Integrity Policy Committee, into the functions and operations of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 2012.

I also intend to focus on working with our public integrity partners in South Australia and other jurisdictions to ensure we undertake our work in a way that best serves the public interest and provides public value.

Public officers and members of the public who speak up and report inappropriate conduct remain integral to the public integrity scheme, and to that end I encourage anyone who forms a reasonable suspicion of corruption, to make a report to the Office for Public Integrity.

I would like to thank Mr Benjamin Broyd for his leadership as Acting Commissioner since the departure of my predecessor the Honourable Ann Vanstone KC.

SA Law Society explains the bipartisan removal of ICAC powers

ICAC can now only inquire into "corruption in public administration", with its powers pertaining to "maladministration" and "misconduct" removed.

While ICAC retains its original power in this regard to inquire into "corruption", it is important to note that the definition of this term has also changed in this process, with the effect of restricting ICAC's reach in this context.

The definition of "corruption" includes offences against a range of different Acts, which, until this Bill, included offences against Part 5 of the *Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935* (SA). However, the recent Bill carved out those offences from this definition.

The practical implication of this change is that a whole suite of dishonesty offences now fall outside of ICAC's reach to investigate in the context of public administration, including:

■THEFT; ■MONEY LAUNDERING; ■ DECEPTION; ■ DISHONEST DEALINGS WITH DOCUMENTS; ■ DISHONEST EXPLOITATION OF POSITION OF ADVANTAGE

The terms "maladministration" and "misconduct" have been moved to the purview of the *Ombudsman Act 1972* (SA) and, as a result, ICAC's remaining responsibility in this area appears to be simply referring such matters to the Ombudsman.

While the definition of "maladministration" remains unchanged, it is important to note changes to the definition of "misconduct" mean that term now requires a "serious and intentional" contravention of a code of conduct.

https://www.lawsocietyasa.asn.au/Public/News_Media_Advocacy/MediaReleases/ICAC_Bill_explainer.aspx

COMMUNITY CRIME REPORT

Elderly residents continue to be targeted for breakins and bashings by local gangs



On TUESDAY 4-2-2025 a private dwelling was targeted for a breakin and theft during the early hours of the morning.

The occupant an 88 year old local resident awoke to discover his home had been broken into while he slept. Intruders removed two sets of car keys from inside his home and stole two vehicles belonging to him. One Commodore Sedan, and one Toyota Hatchback.

A friend and neighbour driving past his home at 7am saw the smashed gates and entered the property to find the owner and offer assistance. The friend waited with the victim and raised the alarm amongst the community via Coober Pedy Regional Times Social Media NEWS .

The response was immediate. A phone call was made to Des Fisher Compliance Officer at DCCP who patrols the town from early morning. Des confirmed that a Silver Commodore was abandoned on the Stuart Highway with one burnt out tyre. A short time later Des confirmed that a Toyota Hatchback had been dumped near the Community Orchard.



Silver Commodore stolen by joyseekers, potentially unlicensed teenagers



The second vehicle stolen from the same private home, was found in amongst the fruit trees and the community orchard.

During the previous fortnight a group of youths were seen by the victim throwing rocks on the roof's of private home in the area. This activity was apparently reported to the police, with locals believing there was trouble brewing.

Police are in the process of investigating the matter and a police report will be available soon.

Coober Pedy residents will need to remain vigilant until the Australian Government and the State Government act upon these copy-cat criminal activities plaguing both the Northern Territory, South Australia and other areas.

Coober Pedy Regional Times

Statement from the victim's daughter Katrina D'Angelo

Before this latest incident, my father and two other older Greek residents had presented at DCCP to discuss their safety concerns after another elderly resident was assaulted and robbed for the 3rd time. The victim (Ilias Georgianoudis) was forcefully flown out and relocated to Adelaide where he passed away 2 days later.

In a bid to find leadership and direction the men had asked to speak to the CEO at the District Council re: their concerns. According to the men they were aggressively told, "The CEO doesn't want to see you," and "Safety is a CP Police matter."

The occupant (my father) of last Friday's home invasion and robbery is an 88 year old long term local resident who has lived and worked in Coober Pedy for 40 years. (I deem this to be a home invasion and the police are calling it that as well)

The intruders pulled down his steel front gates and smashed the front door, stole his car keys and 2 vehicles and some collectable bottles of alcohol.

The victim rang his daughter in Melbourne who raised the alarm by calling 000 at 7:00am. A neighbour of the victim was able to rally the community via the Coober Pedy Regional Times Newspaper avenues and the vehicles were located. The police arrived at 9:30am

My father was attacked whilst driving his Toyota hatch back a week earlier, a group of young people were throwing rocks at his car whilst he drove [as, he stopped the car to see if there was any damage, the gang of young people attempted to attack him. He drove to the Coober Pedy Police station to lodge a report but no one was there.

Due to his poor English and the trauma he let the report go. He had previously observed groups of youths throwing rocks on peoples home in the area.

Is this how my father's 40 year career as an opal miner and valued community member at Coober Pedy is supposed to end?

**SAPOL is standardising
Regional Police Station
OPENING HOURS (weekdays)**



From 23rd December 2024 Coober Pedy Police Station will be open from **9.00am - 5.00pm**

After hours/weekends/public holidays, or if the station is unattended, the following numbers apply.

000 for emergencies. 131 444 for non-urgent police assistance. 1800 333 000 for Crime Stoppers



THE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE is in receipt of complaints outlining that Coober Pedy's drinking water is being used to wash down BHP's basket ball and tennis courts. We see multiple problems with this practice and will provide a report for members at the earliest convenience. While the community find this practice totally unacceptable, the CFS will need to say NO to calls of this nature.

Please do not use our water for this purpose. Only a few months back Coober Pedy was left with two days of water after a fire at the bore destroyed the last remaining generator. Council has since admitted that it had neglected to budget for a water emergency! We must continually remind Adelaide people who come to work at Coober Pedy for short stints that water in the desert is Coober Pedy's most precious commodity.

SEWAGE ACCIDENT AT OOLGELIMA CREEK - burst pump. Repeat from 2018. The site at the bottom of Hutchison Street was nothing less than an environmental disaster for around three weeks prior to Christmas. Resident concern was also that the amount of raw sewage soaking into the ground over several weeks could give rise to mosquitoes and future infections. The Oolgelima Creek is also a natural wildlife sanctuary and an important stopover for migratory birds crossing the desert. Given the proximity of the sewerage and greywater contamination to the Oolgelima Creek we trust the accident was accurately reported to the EPA (?)

SEWAGE ACCIDENT - COUNCIL'S REPORT:

Notable Issues – Wastewater

On the 17th of December the water team discovered the sewerage transfer station had stopped working correctly after the lightning and storm events resulting in an overflow of effluent around the transfer station. A combination of influx of water and built-up waste in the network broke the level sensor within the tank, tripping the power feed to the pump. This was rectified with assistance from a local electrician and vac truck services. The affected areas were disinfected appropriately according to the EPA and SA Health Guidelines and monitored/reported upon by councils environmental health officer.

The below photos were taken on the 8 December 2024 and the area had been flooded with sewerage and grey water for about three weeks prior to that time. The photos were sent to the CEO on the 19th December 2024 after residents began commenting about the contamination area and if the 'incident' had been reported to the EPA. CEO said he knew about the flooding but had not physically seen it at that time, and assumed it would have been reported. According to the BOM Coober Pedy had a significant storm on **Sunday 24 November and received 20.8mm of rain**, and on the **06 December received 16mm of rain**.



Supermarket Complaints. Resident have the option of ordering their supplies through Woolworths at Mawson Lakes and having them delivered by McArdle Transport.

CLARIFICATION: Telstra phone box fluro lights. \$70.50 per quarter per ratepayer! This is only if you are potentially a Caravan Park or similar and have one installed on your premises for public use.

Several members had inquired about Office for Public Integrity forms. Those forms were obtained and made available at the meeting. Members were able to sit with Teena Rosewarne JP and receive assistance with their forms.

MEETING HELD SATURDAY 25th JANUARY 2025

Council continues to spend our money on questionable services totally unrelated to our community needs. Concerns about rising council costs and reduced services has led residents to query council's continued uncontrolled spending that has seen the Council's debt rise to \$19M over it's 6 years in State Government appointed Administration.

Questions continue to arise about the 6 year practice of council using ratepayer's funds to pay lawyers to pursue one of our resident/ratepayers viz George Naumovic for having the courage to call out potential corruption (Attempted destruction of the public record) during State Government appointed Administrator Tim Jackson's time. Yes, our own Whistleblower!

Council has spent a considerable amount of ratepayer's money on legal firms in this pursuit, and are obviously spending a considerable quantity of their own paid time to engage in conduct that most of us have always believed is a bureaucratic coverup.

While Tim Jackson is thankfully no longer with us, the poison chalice has been handed down to successive administrators and CEOs, most of whom were last seen running down the Stuart Highway towards Adelaide with arms in the air, screaming, "the pay is not enough". More inside.

OUR ELECTRICITY PAYMENTS AND THE RAES SUBSIDY. Strong objections from residents whereby Council has been collecting our money for electricity as a middle-man, but not paying the supplier EDL. Council is also in receipt of the State Government RAES subsidy to the tune of around \$5m per annum.

Again, just before Administration and for six year afterwards, Council has not paid the money to the electricity supplier EDL, but spent the money elsewhere. Council now wants to increase our rates to pay EDL for that unpaid electricity and the RAES subsidies that they did not use for the correct purpose. Council has also put all of our town assets up as security for interest-only loans on various borrowings.

ONGOING BUFFEL GRASS CRISIS Those Ratepayers who's properties are choked with buffel grass coming in from council managed land and also DIT land have suggested that we look at legal advice regarding potential negligence and subsequent damages. Coober Pedy is well aware that the **NRM Levy, now Landscape Levy** is forced upon the Ratepayers of Coober Pedy by the SA Government for services that this community does not receive or benefit from. If any benefit has been received in the past, it was not ongoing.

Not only have we paid a forced tax for years we must also pay to remove buffel grass entering our properties from Govt managed land while the government does nothing to uphold its own legislations and requirements. Either provide a satisfactory service, or stop taking our money.

In 2015 South Australia declared buffel grass under its weed management legislation but fails to adequately manage the problem or to enforce management. Let's now hear all of the excuses!!

The "Alliance - COMMUNITY AWARDS" will be held at Easter. We will be seeking nominations and the stories behind them.

Since announcing the Awards, we have been gifted with the means to finance these Awards for 2025. More exciting details to come.



NEXT COMMUNITY ALLIANCE MEETING

Saturday 1 March 4pm, Italian Club, Coober Pedy

- The Alliance has invited members of the local Police Force to address the community on issues of immediate concern.
- The community is encouraged to bring any queries to the meeting to discuss or seek clarification in a group setting. Alternatively send in your suggestions for the next

Agenda and we will raise it for you.

Email to: cPCA.chairperson@gmail.com

- Report on BHP Courts lighting problems Terry McKenzie
- Resident suggestion that the Government monitor more closely the expenditure by public servants currently in office. The Alliance would be very pleased to appoint a community oversight committee given that council paid oversight committees have allowed the debt to blow out of the charts (viz \$19M) whilst under self-declared AUSTERITY MEASURES.

Residents concerned for the plight of elected member George Naumovic as litigation reaches it's 6th year. Now suggesting action to protect our ratepayers from what they believe is now abuse.

- New members to the Alliance have asked for an update on the Community Satisfaction Survey. This can be achieved at the next meeting.



- **Sausage Sizzle - Courtesy Italian Club**

Friday 7 February 2025



Between 5-6 December 2024

unknown persons have gained entry to a house and shed and stolen a vehicle and motorcycle. Investigation is on-going.

Opal Inn broken into and alcohol stolen from bar. Suspect has been apprehended and charged. Suspect attempted to enter recently vacated premises, confronted by member of the public and decamped. Suspect has been identified and police are conducting enquiries to locate and apprehend.

Unknown suspects gained entry to SAAS building damage caused to hose reel but nil stolen, nil other damage occurred. Suspects unable to be identified.

Attempted break in to premises. Entry unable to be gained but damage caused to steel front door and lock.

Scrub fire near football oval on Hutchison Street. Small area extinguished prior to arrival of police/CFS. Further information as to cause of fire/persons involved unable to be ascertained.

Cigarettes stolen from a motor vehicle parked on side of road. No suspects have been able to be identified. Alcohol stolen from Opal Inn and Desert Cave. Suspect has been identified and police are making active enquiries to locate and apprehend suspect.

Theft of jewellery from Opal store. CCTV captures the suspect however at this stage no person has been able to be identified.

Break in to Council building and fire extinguisher stolen. Nil other items stolen or damage incurred.

Vehicle parked on street had window smashed and car seat damaged however nil items of value stolen.

Broken down vehicle stolen from side of road. Police investigation is continuing. Break in to premises whilst occupant was asleep.

Two vehicles taken from the front yard. Police have recovered both vehicles which have been seized and forensic examination conducted. Investigation is awaiting results from Crime Scene Investigation.

Entry gained to sporting complex at football oval. CCTV shows youths entering premises and playing around with equipment before cleaning up and leaving. No damage incurred and nil items stolen.

\$100 MILLION TAXPAYER FUNDS WILL BUILD TRANSITIONAL HOUSING ACROSS AUSTRALIA TO BENEFIT FIRST NATIONS WOMEN AND OTHERS



The current Federal Government's has announced \$100 million in funding to build hundreds of new crisis and transitional homes across Australia.

The funding will support 42 projects through the Crisis and Transitional Accommodation Program (CTAP), delivering critical shelter for women and children escaping family and domestic violence, and older women at risk of homelessness.

A spokesperson for the The Community Housing Industry Association said, "This vital investment in crisis accommodation complements the broader expansion of community housing we're seeing across Australia.

Coming on the same day as the announcement of 800 new social and affordable homes, we're seeing the government starting to deliver on multiple fronts.

Community housing providers are ready to leverage these investments, creating pathways from crisis accommodation into permanent, stable housing – which is ultimately what people need to rebuild their lives."

A Homelessness Australia representative has highlighted the urgent need for this investment, saying, "Every night across Australia, specialist homelessness services are forced to turn away women, children and young people fleeing violence because they don't have enough accommodation. Each turnaway represents a family facing impossible choices about their safety."

Every one of these new crisis and transitional homes will make a life changing difference to women and children in need of a safe haven. With greater investment, we can make even more progress."

National Shelter CEO, said this is welcome news in the suite of housing policies and investments, especially the focus on specific vulnerable groups: "The inclusion of targeted support for culturally and linguistically diverse women,

First Nations women, and older women is critical. This investment and accommodation will provide critical infrastructure, but they must be part of a broader strategy to address Australia's housing crisis and prevent homelessness before it occurs."

The three national peaks emphasised that crisis and transitional housing is essential to complement a sustained pipeline of new social and affordable housing essential to fixing the underlying problem of Australia's housing crisis.

The Coober Pedy Regional Times has reached out for details of locations and Public Consultation, but unfortunately no-one is available to comment over the weekend.

COUNCILOR WINS DEFAMATION / VICTIMISATION CLAIM AGAINST COOBER PEDY ADMINISTRATOR TIM JACKSON

By Coober Pedy Regional Times on August 19, 2022

REPORT: By consent and in Orders made this week by Magistrate Davis in chambers, it was agreed that **TIMOTHY ROBERT SANDFORD JACKSON** had defamed and victimised former Councilor of the District Council of Coober Pedy and resident **George Naumovic** in a letter that he had written to the Coober Pedy Regional Times.

On the 21st May 2021 Administrator of District Council of Coober Pedy **TIM JACKSON** wrote a letter to the Editor of the Coober Pedy Regional Times. The comments made were considered defamatory and highly misleading by **George Naumovic** whom **JACKSON** had written about.

Naumovic launched legal action against Jackson in July 2021,

On Tuesday 16th August 2022 the Crown solicitors office was instructed to concede to the claim launched by **Naumovic**.

The South Australian Financial Arm (SAFA) gave the instructions to concede. Both departments have represented **JACKSON** at some stage.

This action avoided a Trial that was to be held in the Coober Pedy magistrates court on the 24th August 2022.

Therefore by consent and the orders made by Magistrate Davis it was agreed that **JACKSON** had defamed and victimised **George Naumovic** resident and former Councillor of the District Council of Coober Pedy

There were other allegations in Naumovic's Statement of claim against **JACKSON** namely that he knew Naumovic was to be afforded whistle-blower protection, but instead, **JACKSON** prosecuted Naumovic.

The fact that Naumovic was to be afforded whistle-blower protection was never disputed by the Crown Solicitors' office or SAFA.

The prosecution of Naumovic was initiated by **JACKSON** and the then Acting CEO **COLIN PITMAN**.

Will the minister for local government Geoff Brock now stand JACKSON down? Coober Pedy residents have been calling for this action for some time.

After Mr. Naumovic pointed out Jackson's potentially defamatory remarks in his Letter to the Editor, the Coober Pedy Regional Times immediately banned Jackson from submitting any further commentary to the newspaper, until such time as he may be cleared by a court.

The newspaper considered any dialogue, subtle or otherwise coming from Jackson to be a potential risk. This situation remains.

Despite Jackson being forced to concede to a raft of claims including defamation, victimisation, and malice (see Item 13) no apology has been offered at this stage by Administrator Jackson for persecuting a public officer obliged to report potential corruption to ICAC.

Item 13 (of 27) Statement of Claim reads: The Respondent knew that the article he authored was deliberately malicious and reckless and contained statements that he knew were misleading and erroneous when he knew for a fact that the Applicant should have been afforded Whistle-blower protection and should not have been prosecuted.

The Respondent knew that Whistle-blower protection applied to the Applicant based on evidence that the Applicant and his wife produced to the Respondent.

Further, there has been no public apology for the blatant squandering of innocent ratepayers' and taxpayers' monies, currently estimated at around \$700K (in this matter)

The Coober Pedy community deserves an accurate account of Jackson's legal spending since his appointment. Legal expenses coupled with his use of external committees and Adelaide-based Consultants have left the community with the opinion that even Jackson has no confidence in his own abilities.

STATE PARLIAMENT MEDDLES WITH THE ICAC ACT

Extract from **"An explainer on the new ICAC laws"** - published 27 October 2021
https://www.lawsocietya.asn.au/Public/News_Media_Advocacy/MediaReleases/ICAC_Bill_explainer.aspx

The Office of Public Integrity was established alongside ICAC with functions to assess and receive complaints about public administration and reports of misconduct, maladministration and corruption. It was also required to report such matters to ICAC or refer complaints as approved by ICAC.

A Bill that would in effect reduce the powers of ICAC itself was introduced into South Australia's Legislative Council by Mr Frank Pangallo MP on **25 August 2021**.

The Bill was brought back on for further debate in the Legislative Council on **22 September 2021** and passed that same day after 19 pages of amendments were tabled and subsequently supported. The following day, the Bill was introduced into, and passed, the House of Assembly.

How does this Bill alter the powers of ICAC?

Essentially, the Bill renames, restructures and redefines the powers of ICAC. **How was the ICAC Bill amended during Parliamentary debate?**

During debate in the Legislative Council, 19 pages of amendments were tabled, some of which supplemented parts of the Bill and others of which were more in the nature of technical amendments. The Legislative Council considered, and supported a range of amendments to the initial Bill which included:

- An amendment to the offence of "Abuse of Public Office" in the *Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935 (SA)* to provide a qualifier that the offence does not apply in relation to the use of information by Members of Parliament in the course of, or for the purposes of the proper exercise of the functions of a Member of Parliament.
- Strengthening the changes to the ICAC Act to remove ICAC's power over matters to which Parliamentary privilege applies, by expressly noting examples such as statements made or documents or material tabled in Parliament or a Parliamentary Committee.
- Requiring that the Office for Public Integrity's system for complaints ensures consideration is given to the motives of the complainant and/or whether complaints are apparently made in bad faith or for an improper purpose.

What is the defined meaning of "corruption", "maladministration" and "misconduct", and have these changed?

It is essential to understand these three definitions and how their scope and operation has been affected by the changes to the legislation.

ICAC can now only inquire into "corruption in public administration", with its powers pertaining to "maladministration" and "misconduct" removed. While ICAC retains its original power in this regard to inquire into "corruption", it is important to note that the definition of this term has also changed in this process, with the effect of restricting ICAC's reach in this context.

The definition of "corruption" includes offences against a range of different Acts, which, until this Bill, included offences against Part 5 of the *Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935 (SA)*. However, the recent Bill carved out those offences from this definition.

The practical implication of this change is that a whole suite of dishonesty offences now fall outside of ICAC's reach to investigate in the context of public administration, including:

- Theft
- Money laundering
- Deception
- Dishonest dealings with documents
- Dishonest exploitation of position of advantage

Between the 1st + 4th February 2019 an alleged glitch that occurred on the server being used by the District Council of Coober Pedy saw approximately 15 thousand emails earmarked for destruction, allegedly under the auspices of Administrator Tim Jackson and his side kick at the time, former Salsbury council worker Colin Pitman. **This is contrary to the State Records Act.**

The "server glitch" saw the emails distributed across the entire network of the District Council of Coober Pedy's email addresses. This attracted the attention of an entire town, including Public Officer, Cr. George Naumovic, who did not suspect Jackson of any wrongdoing at the time and so dutifully went to him with a collection of the emails.

Jackson assured Naumovic that they would go to ICAC together. However that turned out not to be true. Jackson used legal means and Ratepayer funds to prevent Naumovic taking the documents to ICAC.

Council then instructed lawyers to send threatening letters to all elected members and it is believed, some private citizens, demanding that all documentation was to be destroyed.

Should the case concerning potential corruption involving State Government appointed Administrator Tim Jackson in 2019, ever be heard by ICAC, or an independent inquiry, the same ICAC laws will apply in the Jackson case that existed at the time of the "incident".

Retrospective Laws | Rule of Law Education Centre explains: "The principle of law that applies to an offense is the law in place at the time the offense occurred, not the law that comes into effect later."

Flurrying around to quickly change the relevant laws that incidentally serve to protect potential criminal activity in both the political and the public service sector will not protect Jackson if ICAC can get their hands on the emails that are the centre of controversy.

COMMUNITY QUESTIONS FOR ALL DCCP PUBLIC OFFICERS, PAST, PRESENT and FUTURE

2020 FOI REQUEST REVEALS Council spent over \$1M on Consultant fees in 6 months, PLUS the staggering amount of ratepayer funds being spent to suppress a Whistleblower.

Q: What is the current cumulative expenditure re: Whistleblower?

Q: Please explain the relevance of this extraneous 'Whistleblower' expense, and how it adds value to this community?

Q: Aren't all current DCCP administrative staff + subcontractors considered Public Officers under the ICAC Act?

The community has demanded release of the documents that Jackson stated belonged to the community!

In August 2022 the following complaint in the form of a draft petition was published as an open letter to Minister Geoff Brock. Our report and concerns over the obscene amount of RATEPAYERS money being spent in victimising a public officer for trying to report potential corruption DID NOT AROUSE THE INTEREST OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT. In fact the Parliament itself took steps to dilute the powers of ICAC, rendering such reporting ineffective.

To the Minister for Local Government, Geoff Brock MP

We the undersigned residents and ratepayers of Coober Pedy in the jurisdiction of South Australia's Far North, humbly and urgently request that Administrator Tim Jackson be stood down immediately, and an interim Administrator appointed, with conditions.

The following items are our strong view and belief, and therefore, we allege that:

1 Mr. Jackson displays a lack of respect in many of his dealings with residents of this town as conceded to in the recent outcome Naumovic vs State of South Australia. As a small community already burdened by MALADMINISTRATION inside the council precinct we expect those elected members with moral courage to have a clear passage to the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption [ICAC] as per the ICAC Act. Although, Maladministration seems to be something that no one is being charged for. We believe this MUST change or we can never move forward. **Mr Jackson has already conceded that he is guilty, and therefore we would like Tim Jackson suspended/removed/stood down without pay, from the position that he is currently occupying, and referred to ICAC, and the DPP.**

- 2 a) Considering that Mr. Jackson has conceded to a range of claims in Naumovic vs State of South Australia, would it be fair to say that public money has paid for this extensive exercise where a personal vendetta (malice) was involved?
- b) Our expectation is that Tim Jackson is made accountable and referred to ICAC>DPP, along with the information that the public officer was prevented from delivering?
- c) What incentive is there to become a councilor/public officer, if the Statutory Officer appointed by the State, is able to spend unlimited amounts of public money, to circumvent or avoid complying with the various Acts of Parliament? The State Government MUST dispense with the double standards currently in operation.
- d) Shouldn't Mr. Jackson be asked to pay for the costs of those guilty admissions out of his own salary?
- e) Can those public documents that Mr. Jackson claims he was protecting please be released to the public?

3 Mr. Jackson was given one year to stabilise financial problems inside the council, but instead, spent almost 4 years as a flyin/flyout operator using a plethora of Adelaide based consultants to do the work that we believed he was being paid to do.. We are now worse off than at the beginning of his term. Mr. Jackson's excessive use of lawyers, consultants and other supplementary help is indicative of his poorly qualified status. As a town in recovery we cannot afford to pay extra to supplement public servant incompetence.

We further allege that: Mr. Jackson's unprofessional behaviour has caused harm to other individuals in this community.

4 Mr. Jackson's inappropriate treatment (victimisation/abuse of power) of an individual with mental illness we deem to be ignorant and cruel.

5 Mr. Jackson's inappropriate treatment (victimisation/abuse of power) towards an elderly member of the ethnic community.

6 Mr. Jackson allowed prolonged inappropriate treatment (victimisation/abuse of power) of local resident by a CEO in his employ causing financial damage and harm to his business.

7 Mr. Jackson's inappropriate treatment (victimisation/abuse of power) of ratepayer, where he forced her into the Supreme Court at Ratepayers expense to defend an action that had no basis. We further do not feel confident that lawyers engaged by Jackson, are advising him correctly.

8 Mr. Jackson's further inappropriate treatment (victimisation/abuse of power) of a member of our community where ongoing ratepayer funds are being spent to try and render this person bankrupt.

9 Mr. Jackson's ongoing inappropriate treatment (victimisation) of the local newspaper and its editor has caused divisions in the community; has avoided scrutiny and open government, the effect of which, provides Jackson with an excuse not to answer questions. We believe that his public threats of litigation were illegal. Mr. Jackson's strategy has caused a build up of years on unanswered questions asked by the community.

10 Mr. Jackson's treatment of the Aboriginal community in relation to essential services is appalling (see Ombudsman Report)

11 Mr. Jackson's treatment of the elected body in the 'ordinary returns' saga, we believe was deliberate and should be referred to ICAC/DPP

12 Mr Jackson stood by while his CEO made redundant a valued, long term Executive Assistant, and then went on to employ and a series of up to 5/6 more female EA's. All with a story to tell.

13 Mr. Jackson's lack of action on the alcohol problems in the town and his refusal to engage with our alcohol management plan (or even to develop a new one) has left us with a return of the antisocial issues that we fought so hard to achieve previously.

14 Mr. Jackson awarded grants to Dusty Radio and didn't declare his conflicts of interest ie that his partner had become heavily involved in the radio station and that he was relying on the station to promote his 'good work'.

15 Mr. Jackson has not reined in debt; he has increased it to \$13M. He has not achieved financial security for our town nor has he made any significant improvements. The effect is that we will need to start again. 4 years completely wasted.

16 Mr. Jackson projects that to pay the current council debt he needs to offload our Accredited Early Learning Learning Centre (Mini Gems); our Community asset viz Water Supply and increase water charges by 35%, while allowing tourists to have free water, instead of systematically repairing damaged infrastructure. Mr. Jackson appears to have no qualms in destabilising families by 'threatening' to withdraw essential services, if there may be a chance that the State Government will offer him a bailout.

We the residents and ratepayers request:

17 An investigation into a variety of issues, including Mr. Jackson's salary and benefits as proposed to the community when he sought a further three years employment at half the cost.

18 A detailed, public Audit of Jackson's and all of his CEOs' spending including staff payouts, (unfair dismissals and redundancies) and implement a further strengthening of the internal controls.

19 **This list is not exhaustive**, and one might query why residents don't take more of these concerns to the OPI. This because we believe there are two sets of rules. The residents of Coober Pedy, many who have difficulties articulating their concerns, have lost confidence in the system and seek simpler, swifter solutions, in line with the understanding of a working class/multicultural community. ie Simplified process.

COOBER PEDY RETAIL, BUSINESS & TOURISM ASSOC. INC



COOBER PEDY
RETAIL BUSINESS AND
TOURISM ASSOCIATION INC

Dear Members,

We've had a quiet commencement to 2025. Hot weather, bad publicity in the city media and a severe lack of strategy - our largest industry, Tourism is being left behind.

Tourism for Coober Pedy is about the **OPAL, UNDERGROUND and OUTBACK** experience. It is surprising when you hear consultant trying to define tourism in Coober Pedy. It is not about a rock concert with an ageing rock band, it is not about D grade fringe acts, it is not about kumbaya-ness around the playground.

Those who have invested in tourism for many years and have seen the cycles, know it is about encouraging the travelers to stay another night; to experience underground living, to buy an opal, to tour our surrounding areas, to eat at our diverse eateries and live like a local for a few days.

There needs to be some assurance that the families travelling on the Stuart Highway are not afraid to stop in Coober Pedy; that they are welcomed and not confronted by anti-social behaviour or beggars stalking them.

Although the council has recently scrapped the 'Jackson Tourist Committee' we are in talks with the current administrator and CEO to re-establish an effective tourism strategy and committee that can professionally speak on behalf of the town with ideas and positive suggestions. Also to speak with one voice to the media as it is obvious that the Adelaide news outlets are mainly looking for negative and sensational news stories.

The current Asset and Services Review commissioned by the local government minister will accept submissions on the assets and services at the council and online. The CPRBTA has already submitted its concern over very little funding to our largest industry. Please engage with the "Have your say - Coober Pedy Service and Asset Review."

<https://www.cooperpedy.sa.gov.au/latest-news-events/latest-news/Have-your-sayCoober-Pedy-Service-and-Asset-Review> (copy-paste)

Recently we were asked by a film crew why are there so many closed businesses in town. We stated that many go away during summer being a traditionally quiet period. Then we started counting shops that are permanently closed and other vacant shops, discovering that 30 shops haven't been open for years. Some because of retirement, ill health, ongoing high cost of living in Coober Pedy and others clearly because of the impact of relentless anti-social behaviour.

Then we started counting vacant dwellings. We only looked at half the town area and found well over empty 150 houses (not vacant blocks or disused lots). We are puzzled to learn that outside consultants are recommending that we need funding to build more accommodation, for only 1,700 people!

Surely the government who collects the statistics (ABS) is aware that in 1996 the population was 3,184, which was a drop from the numbers Coober Pedy was housing in the boom-times ie 60's 70's and 80's. Despite many of those might not have committed to the census, we still housed them during those times.

Coober Pedy has been quite lucrative for many businesses over the years and they do contribute to community events. However this year we ask all of Coober Pedy to come forward and volunteer for this years Opal Festival on the 15th of June.

The 36th Opal Festival will be themed as the Heart Of The Outback - hence subtitles of *love opal, love underground living, love the outback*. It will be a great event for locals and tourists.

There is a lot to fight for this year, a State Government, Review, Federal Elections and above all how will the politicians treat Coober Pedy and other remote areas?

Please get involved in our town's affairs with positive and constructive engagement and a regard for our biggest industry BUSINESS AND TOURISM

The Coober Pedy Retail, Business & Tourism Association AGM will be held on Friday 14 February, 6pm at The Mud Hut Motel. All Welcome.

George Kountouris
CPRBTA Chair

LETTERS

OPINION: CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS PROCESS CONTINUES TO DISAPPOINT

Dear Editor,

Our family are long term residents of Coober Pedy and the broader region. We find it appalling that two newly arrived council employees and their assistants and likely other unknown contributors decided who would receive Coober Pedy's Citizen of the Year award on behalf of the entire community. It is invisible to the general community as to how the current council thinks it satisfactorily complied with Citizen of the Year guidelines.

The locals we have spoken to have strongly disagreed with the process selected by those in control and their conclusions. In my opinion, **potential nominees** with decades of contributions to this remote community became overlooked. These community members deserved community based recognition.

We understand that the Coober Pedy community has already complained once to the Australia Day Committee about the blatant conflicts of interest apparent at the host level. Council's discretionary efforts has the effect of cherry picking the guidelines to create a quick and easy outcome. I do not believe this was intended by the Official Australia Day Committee.

Selection Criteria -

Page 4

(Citizen of the Year Guidance Document)

In choosing the recipients of the Citizen of the Year Awards, regard is given to the nominee's achievements in the year immediately before receiving the award, as well as their past achievements and ongoing contribution to the community.

An individual need only be nominated once to be considered. The number of nominations received per nominee bears no weight in their selection.

The selection criteria for Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year are:

- Significant contribution to the community
- An inspirational role model for the Australian community
- The scope of impact the individual's contribution has on the local government area.

Panel Composition and Guidelines -

Page 13

(Citizen of the Year Guidance Document)

• The Local Government Authority may compose the selection panel as they see best fit however the following composition is recommended.

**o 2 Elected Members
o 3 community representatives.**

Furthermore, there was little information or advertising about upcoming events, and nomination forms were not readily available.

Council Administration has failed to follow achievable guidelines.

Ideas for Councils to Generate Nominations -

Page 7

(Citizen of the Year Guidance Document)

- Engage with committees and community groups in the nomination period to source nominations

- Encourage your networks to promote the Awards on their social media channels and website

- Mail out posters and nomination forms to local businesses, community organisations, libraries and community centres

- Invite previous recipients to promote the Awards with their networks

- Ask previous recipients to be involved in promotion by providing video content or quotes to use on Council social media

- Strongly encourage Elected Members and Councillors to promote the Awards with their networks and on social media channels

- Ask your Mayor and/or Chief Executive Officer to record a video that promotes the importance of the Awards and how to nominate (see example here)

- Ask your Mayor to incorporate commentary on the importance of active citizenship in all speeches given throughout the year

- Develop a communications strategy to promote the awards

- o Talk more about WHY it is important for Council to have these awards - what do these awards mean for our community?

- o Share stories of previous recipients – where are they now and how receiving this Award has impacted them

- o Consider how your current recipients can help promote the awards – can they speak at an event?

In my view the administrators seem lazy and show little interest in the community and its needs. Once again, there are more blunders and no accountability.

Your sincerely

S & M Williams



Moomba CCS: A Trojan Horse for Fossil Fuel Expansion and Corporate Capture of Public Policy

Instead of using our resources to create long-term public benefit—such as transitioning to a clean, independent energy system—politicians are acting as salespeople for fossil fuel corporations.

The Moomba Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) project, hailed by the Liberal Opposition as a world-leading initiative, is not the climate breakthrough it claims to be. Instead, it is a carefully disguised mechanism to extend the life of fossil fuels, funnel public money into corporate profits, and allow private resource interests to dictate national energy policy while undermining public benefit.

While governments and industry claim that CCS is a necessary tool for emissions reduction, the reality is far more cynical: the Moomba CCS project is primarily designed for Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)—a process where injected CO₂ is used to extract more oil and gas from declining fields. This means that instead of reducing emissions, the project actually increases fossil fuel production under the false banner of climate action.

Enhanced Oil Recovery: The Hidden Agenda

What is being marketed as an emissions reduction project is, in reality, a lifeline for oil and gas extraction. Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) works by injecting CO₂ into old reservoirs, forcing out remaining hydrocarbons that would otherwise be left behind. In other words, the same carbon that is supposedly being “stored” is actually being used to produce even more fossil fuels, leading to a net increase in emissions when burned.

This is not a theoretical concern—globally, most CCS projects operate for EOR, not genuine storage. The United States, for example, has long used CO₂ injection to maximize oil output, and the same playbook is now being run in Australia.

Moomba’s location in the Cooper and Eromanga Basins—a key fossil fuel province—strongly suggests that the main objective is not emissions reduction, but rather increasing resource extraction.

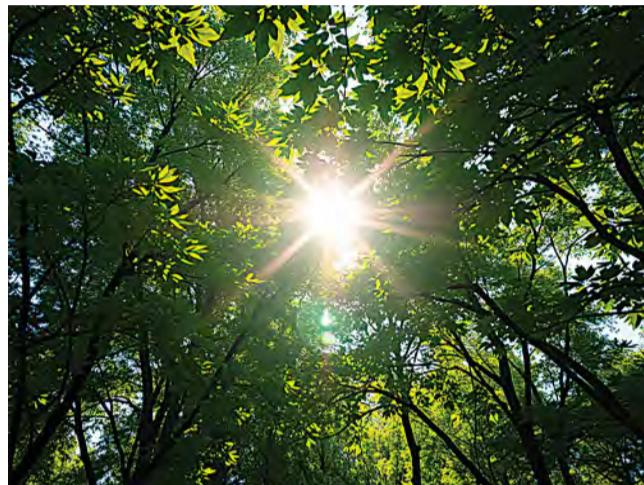
Subsidizing Fossil Fuels Under the Pretense of Climate Action

If CCS were a viable, market-driven technology, Santos and Beach Energy would fund it themselves. Instead, the Moomba CCS project has been subsidized through government programs, including the Emissions Reduction Fund. This means that taxpayers are footing the bill for fossil fuel companies to extract more oil and gas, all while being told it’s a “climate solution.”

This is not just economic mismanagement—it is public policy being hijacked by corporate interests. The funds being funneled into CCS could have been directed toward renewable energy, battery storage, and genuine decarbonization initiatives—projects that actually move Australia toward a sustainable future.

Instead, the CCS scam allows the fossil fuel sector to:

- Delay meaningful emissions reduction by pretending that carbon storage offsets continued pollution.
- Secure government subsidies under the guise of “climate action,” while continuing business as usual.



Trees are one of the best carbon capture storage technologies in the world. Why are we looking for empty holes to lease out to mining companies when they can plant trees?

- Justify further oil and gas expansion with claims that new projects will be “carbon neutral” thanks to CCS.

The Political Bias of Resource Owners: Who Really Controls Australia’s Energy Policy?

The Liberal Opposition’s glowing endorsement of Moomba CCS is unsurprising. The fossil fuel industry holds enormous political influence in Australia, and successive governments—both Liberal and Labor—have acted as facilitators of private energy interests rather than stewards of the public good.

Energy Policy That Benefits Corporations, Not Australians

For decades, Australia’s energy policy has been shaped by fossil fuel executives rather than independent, science-based decision-making. This political capture has led to:

- Skyrocketing energy prices despite Australia’s wealth of natural resources. Instead of benefiting from cheap domestic energy, Australians pay inflated prices because gas producers prioritize exports over local supply.
- Public money being funneled into private profits, with fossil fuel subsidies dwarfing investments in renewables.
- Deliberate suppression of alternative energy industries to maintain fossil fuel dominance, even as global markets move toward decarbonization.

The Moomba CCS project is a perfect example of this dynamic in action. Instead of using our resources to create long-term public benefit—such as transitioning to a clean, independent energy system—politicians are acting as salespeople for fossil fuel corporations.

The Risk to the Great Artesian Basin: Environmental Neglect for Corporate Gain

The Cooper and Eromanga Basins overlap with one of Australia’s most critical water resources—the Great Artesian Basin (GAB). The injection of vast amounts of CO₂ underground risks contaminating this fragile aquifer through leaks, seismic disturbances, and unexpected geological reactions.

If a leak occurs, it would compromise water security for agriculture, communities, and Indigenous landholders—potentially devastating regional economies and ecosystems. Yet, this risk is being brushed aside in favor of fossil fuel profits.

The Bottom Line: A Deliberate Deception at Public Expense

The Moomba CCS project is not an emissions reduction solution. It is a corporate smokescreen designed to justify further fossil fuel extraction while diverting public funds into private hands.

By facilitating this project, the Australian government is prioritizing the interests of Santos and Beach Energy over the Australian public. Instead of investing in energy independence, cost-of-living relief, and sustainable industries, taxpayers are being forced to bankroll an expensive, ineffective, and environmentally reckless scheme.

What Needs to Happen Instead?

1. End fossil fuel subsidies, including CCS handouts. These funds should be redirected to genuine emissions reduction technologies.
2. Break the stranglehold of fossil fuel lobbyists on Australian energy policy. Decision-making should prioritize public benefit, not private profit.
3. Invest in renewable energy and decentralized power systems that lower electricity prices and improve national energy security.
4. Protect the Great Artesian Basin by banning CCS projects near critical water reserves.

Australians deserve better than to be lied to about carbon capture. The only real solution to reducing emissions is to phase out fossil fuels—not to subsidize schemes that extend their dominance while endangering our most precious resources.

Carbon: The Lifeblood of Life, Not a Prisoner of Politics

Carbon is not our enemy—it is the backbone of life itself. Every breath we take, every plant that grows, and every ecosystem that thrives depends on carbon cycling freely through nature.

The war on carbon is a war on life, driven by political and corporate agendas that distort science for profit. Instead of locking carbon underground in expensive, risky schemes, we should celebrate its role in feeding plants, enriching soil, and sustaining the natural balance.

Carbon is a giver, not a threat. Let it breathe, let it grow—because life depends on it.

**Nigel Carney,
 Flinders Ranges
 Economist,
 Historian**



Outback creativity knows no limits

Andamooka's Art Scene Flourishes: Advocacy, Opal, and Art at the Heart of a Transformative Year

ANDAMOOKA, SA – Over the past year, Andamooka has defined itself through three powerful themes: advocacy, opal, and art. With growing ministerial engagement, artistic innovation, and strengthened tourism connections, the outback town is proving that regional creativity, opal mining, and economic development go hand in hand.

In January 2023, Hon. Kristy McBain MP, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government, and Territories, and Hon. Clare Scriven MLC, Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, toured Cal the Stoner's Intricarved Stone Sculpture Studio. Their visit sparked broader discussions about how opal mining, art, and tourism can work together to strengthen regional economies.

Momentum grew when Hon. Zoe Bettison MP, Minister for Tourism and Multicultural Affairs, toured the Outback in March, 2024, beginning in Roxby Downs and Andamooka. During her visit, she officially opened the Andamooka Underground Art Gallery and met with local opal miners and artists at Cal the Stoner's. Minister Bettison's enthusiasm for supporting regional arts, tourism, and liveability improvements reinforced what locals have been advocating for: outback communities need both economic support and cultural investment to thrive.

Tourism Meets Art: Outback Stories Told on a National Stage

Andamooka's rich opal mining history and rugged landscape have long drawn interest, but this year, the town's artists brought that story to life on a national stage.

At the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra's Floods of Fire event, Andamooka creatives presented *A Flood Fable*—a puppet show inspired by the town's legendary flash floods. Through characters like Bloke (a true-blue outback miner), Baby Beardy (a baby bearded dragon), and Queen (a wedge-tailed eagle), the show merged storytelling, visual artistry, and Andamooka's connection to the natural landscape and wildlife.

- Written by: Cal the Stoner
- Produced & Directed by: Leila Day
- Set & Puppets Handcrafted and performed by: Ellen Mitchell & Tayla Voy
- Bloke performed by: Conan Fahey

The performance gained the attention of Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, who attended *A Flood Fable* at the Adelaide Festival.

Moved by the storytelling and the creative spirit of Andamooka, the Governor expressed her desire to visit the town and learn more about the community behind the performance.

Her interest in Andamooka wasn't just about the arts—she had also heard about the community's ongoing lobbying efforts to upgrade the Andamooka airstrip for RFDS operations.

As a patron of the RFDS, she recognised the importance of this infrastructure for remote healthcare and wanted to show her support for the community's efforts.

This recognition at the highest level is a testament to how Andamooka's artists, miners, and community leaders are making an impact beyond their region.



Looking at Andamooka Opal with the Oracle Hon. Zoe Bettison MP SA Tourism and Multicultural Affairs Minister



Kristy McBain MP, Cal the Stoner with Clare Scriven MLC and the Andamooka Tiger



Tayla and Ellen Performing A Flood Fable

By Leila Day - Andamooka

Opal, Advocacy & Recognition: A Legacy for Andamooka

At the heart of this movement is Cal the Stoner, whose dedication to Intricarving—a term now officially recognised by Wikipedia in 2024—has positioned Andamooka as a destination for one-of-a-kind stone sculpture.

His work has gained national attention, with ABC's Back Roads featuring Cal in the first episode of 2025, calling his gallery "The most Aussie Art Gallery Ever!" Meanwhile, InDaily Magazine described his sculptures as "a must-see big thing on a tour of Australia."

This level of national recognition benefits the entire community. With Andamooka already known for its world-class opal fields, the town is now attracting a new wave of visitors—art lovers, cultural travellers, and experience-seekers.

ANDAMOOKA

Workshops, Festivals & Strengthening the Region's Creative Economy

This growth hasn't happened by accident. Over the past years, local and state partnerships have helped expand artistic opportunities and foster new skills.

- Arts South Australia, Country Arts SA, Creative Partnerships Australia, Lang Family Foundation, Foundation SA, Nature Festival, Andamooka Observatory, Dukes Bottle House Motel, Andamooka Opal Miners, Andamooka Opal Showroom and Underground Opal and Mineral Museum, Andamooka Primary School, and Arid Recovery collaborated on artist-led workshops.

These workshops resulted in large-scale dinosaurs and plesiosaurs, opal and art projections onto the mullock heaps, and a film screening of Mara Jean Quinns feature film – 'Andamooka' for the inaugural Opal Evolution Festival in October 2024, linking the town's prehistoric opalised fossils with its present-day arts and mining scene.

- **The May the Fourth Be with You RFDS fundraiser**, hosted by the Andamooka Opal Fields Tourism Association Inc. and the Opal Evolution team, merged sci-fi, music, and interactive art.

- A lighting and projection mapping workshop led by Nic Mollison trained local creatives in high-tech stagecraft, skills that were immediately used at the fundraiser and are expected to enhance future tourism and arts events.

What's Next? Keeping the Momentum Going

This year, Andamooka's artists, miners, and community leaders have sent a clear message: Advocacy works. The region has gained ministerial attention, national arts collaborations, and growing investment in liveability.

Opal mining and art belong together. The creative sector is helping redefine Andamooka's identity beyond mining, making it a compelling destination for visitors. Tourism and the arts are merging. As Andamooka gains recognition for its artistic and cultural contributions, more opportunities are emerging to attract travellers, events, and long-term investment.

For opal miners, this means more visibility for their industry as tourism operators begin incorporating live demonstrations, artist collaborations, and immersive storytelling into their offerings.

For government and regional decision-makers, this proves that investing in outback communities through culture and tourism strengthens local economies, improves liveability, and supports industry diversification.

For the tourism industry, Andamooka is shaping up to be one of South Australia's most unique visitor destinations, where opal mining, art, and storytelling intersect.

With growing momentum, 2025 is set to be another landmark year for advocacy, opal, and art in Andamooka.



May the Fourth Be With you Event

COOKING WITH MARIA



MARIA OTTY has an Italian/Maltese background, so loving food is in her DNA.

Maria (left) teaches Food Technology at the **Coober Area School** and has Certificate 3 in Commercial Cookery as well as a Bachelor of Tourism and Hospitality Management.

Maria said she has always been interested in cooking, so she loves to cook and loves to eat. She enjoys exploring new recipes and trying out different ingredients. We thank Maria for contributing to our newspaper, and sharing her personal recipes with us.

Creamy Tomato and Basil Pasta

This creamy pasta dish is so easy and you can make in less than 30 minutes.

Make as a mid-week dish or for elegant dinner party.

Your family and guests will be asking for more.

Simply Delicious.
Serves 4 as a main course or 6 as an entrée.



Ingredients

300g / 10oz spaghetti

1 tbsp / 15g olive oil

1 tbsp / 15g butter

½ onion finely

chopped

2 garlic cloves minced

Handful of fresh basil

leaves torn into

pieces

400g / 14oz canned

diced tomatoes

1 tbsp / 15g tomato

paste

1 tsp / 5g vegetable

stock or

1 bouillon cube

crumbled

1 cup / 250ml heavy/

thickened cream

¼ cup reserved pasta

liquid

½ cup / 40g

parmesan cheese

Finely ground salt and

pepper

Method

Cook pasta to al dente (firm and chewy, but still tender when you bite into it) in large pot of salted water. Just before draining reserve half a cup of pasta water. Set aside.

Heat butter and oil in a skillet over medium heat. Add onion and garlic and sauté for 2 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Add torn basil leaves, stir and cook for a further 1 minute.

Add canned tomatoes, tomato paste and stock and cook for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally making sure tomatoes do not stick to the skillet and burn. If this happens turn down the heat.

Add cream, parmesan cheese, reserved water and finely ground salt and pepper, combine with tomato mixture.

Add pasta and toss to combine. Cook for a further 1 minute until the sauce thickens.

Serve immediately with more parmesan if you wish.



Keeping your business safe online

Workshop

Will Cover:

- 5 basic steps to protect your business & clients from high-risk attacks
- simple ways to manage thousands of unique passwords
- steps to prevent the most common hacks and what to do if you do get hacked

Plus more...

Coober Pedy

Location

John's Pizza Bar

Date/Time

26th March 2025

6:30pm - 8:30pm

Register Here!



LOCALBUYING FOUNDATION
AN INITIATIVE OF THE LOCAL BUYING PROGRAM

Regional Development Australia
FAR NORTH

COOBER PEDY RETAIL, BUSINESS AND TOURISM ASSOCIATION

Adelaide Business Hub

Regional Development Australia Far North

Come and join us for this FREE workshop in Coober Pedy!

Brett uses his 30 years in government and private sectors to deliver easy-to-understand, actionable solutions to cyber security. Brett is a trusted advisor for businesses of all sizes and brings a fresh and honest perspective to the challenges of our increasingly connected digital landscape.

Limited spots are available and so registering in advance is highly recommended! <https://rdafn.com.au/event/keeping-your-business-safe-online-workshop-coober-pedy-2/>

MEETING BASICS

Training

Sessions coming to a town near you:

Location:	Date:	Time:
Blinman	Tuesday 11 February	4:00pm-6:30pm
Hawker	Wednesday 12th February	4:00pm-6:30pm
Quorn	Wednesday 19th February	6:00pm - 8:30pm
Marree	Wednesday 26th February	3:30pm - 6:00pm
Copley	Thursday 27th February	4:30pm-7:00pm
Roxby Downs	Monday 3rd March	6:00pm-8:30pm
Andamooka	Tuesday 4th March	10:00am-12:30pm
Port Augusta	Wednesday 19th March	5:30pm-8:00pm
Coober Pedy	Tuesday 25th March	6:00pm-8:30pm
Oodnadatta	Thursday 27th March	11:00am-1:30pm
Yunta	Coming Soon	
Kingoonya	Coming Soon	
Marla	Coming Soon	
Innamincka	Coming Soon	
Nonning	Coming Soon	

For more information contact:
 Leadership Program Manager
 Renata Hackett

E: ren@rdafn.com.au P: (08) 8641 1444

Regional Development Australia
FAR NORTH

Government of South Australia
Department of Primary Industries and Regions

Posting and boasting to be outlawed

People who intend to promote or glorify criminal conduct on social media could face up to two years jail under new posting and boasting laws to be introduced to State Parliament this week.

Under the Government's proposal, which was developed following extensive consultation with members of the legal community, law enforcement, and educators, individuals who seek to encourage, glorify or promote criminal conduct through social media could face charges – regardless of whether any persons were charged over their original conduct.

A defence would be available in cases where the material was posted for a legitimate public purpose, such as where it was posted in the public interest for journalistic or artistic purposes, or for the purpose of educating or informing the public.

The Government acknowledges the efforts of the Hon Frank Pangallo MLC for the work he has done in this space and putting the issue on the Parliamentary agenda.

Attorney General, Kyam Maher said, "The Government is all too aware of the risks that are associated with social media, which is why we began a campaign to take strong, decisive action to protect people, especially young South Australians, for the harms associated with it."

"Criminals who seek to gain notoriety by posting and boasting could potentially incite or encourage others, and further embolden their own illegal acts."

"Giving authorities the ability to prosecute, with offenders facing up to two years in jail, should send a clear message that this type of behaviour will not be tolerated in our state."

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

HOW WILL REGIONAL AUSTRALIA BENEFIT FROM TELSTRA'S NEW COLLABORATION WITH STARLINK?

A new collaboration between Telstra and SpaceX's Starlink will significantly impact how people living in rural and regional Australia can communicate – bringing service to parts of the country that have never had it before.

The best part is that most Aussies, won't need to change anything to get access to this service – but that might not be the case for everyone.

What does the partnership between Telstra and Starlink actually mean for Australians living in rural or regional areas?

Essentially, it will mean they will have satellite access directly to their mobile phones in places they've never had before.

Thanks to the satellite technology, coverage will be available to the more than 60% of Australia's land mass that previously hasn't been able to access it.

Initially, Aussies will be able to send text messages on their phones no matter where they are in the country – over time that will develop to voice calls or even have video streaming capabilities.

REFORMS TO VALIDATE VICTIMS IN MENTAL INCOMPETENCE VERDICTS

The term 'not guilty due to mental incompetence' will be axed under reforms proposed by the State Government in a move to better reflect court findings and validate victims.

While the terminology around 'not guilty' due to mental incompetence remains factually accurate, over the years there has been a growing consensus that the phrase can be misleading and fails to adequately reflect the legal consequences that flow from this type of court finding and the impact on victims given that the conduct has been proven.

Under the reforms introduced to State Parliament this week, the term would be replaced with a finding of 'conduct proved, but not criminally responsible' due to mental incompetence.

Attorney General Kyam Maher said, "If someone is seriously killed or injured by a person who is found to have been mentally incompetent to commit the offence, it's easy to understand why the use of the words 'not guilty' can be so distressing to the victim or their loved ones."

"Those words of 'not guilty' carry a certain meaning and, in the broader community, could be easily misunderstood."

"We feel that these changes better reflect both the serious impact of their actions, the consequences for victims and the nature of the finding against the accused."



What do Aussies have to do to get this satellite access?

The great news is that many Aussies won't have to do anything to get access to the satellite services – it will use technology that already exists in smartphones to work.

However, as this is a partnership with Telstra, access will only be for those who have a Telstra service already.

General News

Not For Profit Groups Struggle with Labor's New Tax Laws

Many not-for-profit organisations (NFPs) are once again struggling with the new government requirement for them to lodge a "not for profit" statement by the end of March.

Member for Grey Rowan Ramsey raised this issue last year both in the Parliament and the partyroom after contacts from agitated and annoyed community groups.

"Eventually the Government deferred implementation by six months, but nothing has changed and as the new compliance date approaches now the organisations are once again raising the issue," he said.

"Shadow Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities and Treasury Senator Dean Smith picked up the battle in the Senate and after a number of estimates questions was able to get a short inquiry established.

The inquiry recommended lifting the thresholds to exempt small local organisations from the process.

"Also that the implementation be further deferred, the ATO and ACNC work together to lessen the impact so community organisations can get on with their business. The Government has sat on this advice and done nothing."

"A group of us met with the ATO in Canberra – we were told this form would take 10-15 minutes to fill out. I viewed the tutorial, that took half an hour."

"The guidance publication is three pages long and the elected official will have to go on their personal MyGov site and through there access the Business Portal to download the forms."

"Of course not everyone has a MyGov site, but we were told they should not be concerned, that they can apply online, however to do that, the club official will have to download "myID" a two factor identification app."

Only then can they begin to fill out the forms which at best can be described as vague and difficult.

"It is a ridiculous attack on footy clubs, motorcycle clubs, sewing societies, dance groups, community associations and small charities have looked after regional communities for decades and now are facing onerous tax requirements that in many cases will stretch their volunteers beyond their capabilities."

"It is an ample demonstration that Labor members of Parliament come from the political class, and have not been grass-roots community members."

"The reporting requirements to the tax office are a real issue for small volunteer-run organisations and non-compliance threatens their future and the Coalition remains committed to building strong and sustainable communities – supporting our community groups and charities and strengthening them for the future."

While Telstra hasn't confirmed the exact timing of when this service will be available, they have stated it's something they are working on over the coming months.

How can Aussies make sure their phone, or current service, is compatible?

Any smartphone with Telstra service will have satellite access, when it becomes available. Unfortunately, this does mean that anyone without service through Telstra will not be able to access the satellite service.

For information on pricing, and what Aussies should do if they want to switch, Canstar utilities expert Tara Donnelly is available for more information.

WEDNESDAY

Cfs Training

Tuesday evenings - 6pm at Station

Mine Rescue/SES

1st Wednesday of the month 7.30pm,
and 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month
9am at Mine Rescue shed

FRIDAYS

CP Shooters Club

See back page for
latest updates

Italian Club

Italian Club Coober Pedy
We would like to wish everyone a
very merry Christmas and a
happy and safe New Year!
We will be closed from Saturday
14th December and will reopen
Friday 3rd January 2025!

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

CALLING ALL all OPAL MINERS PAST & PRESENT

Thinking of travelling to Coober Pedy at Easter?

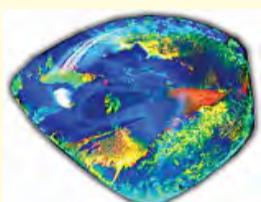
Many opal miners embark on that

EASTER PILGRIMAGE back 'home' to their beloved

Opal Capital of the World

EASTER WEEKEND EVENTS 2025

- Friday 18 April - Good Friday
- Saturday 19 April - Easter Saturday
- Sunday 20 April - Easter Sunday
- Monday 21 April - Easter



Highlights Include:

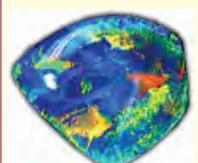
Fri: The STORY TELLING TENT will DOCUMENT YOUR ODYSSEY;
YOUR unique journey!

How your adventure into the world of opal, shaped your life, your direction. etc.

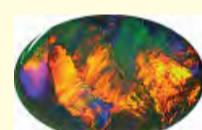
All Weekend NOBLE TOURS

Morning and afternoon tours highlighting the best of Coober Pedy and the
Breakaways. Book online nobletoursaustralia.com.au or 0499 500 932

Sat/Sun COOBER PEDY ANNUAL GEM TRADE SHOW



Venue: Croatian Club 2 Days



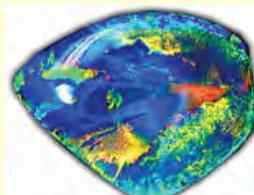
Sat: LOCAL STALLS & CAMP OVEN, Italian Club

All Weekend OASIS TOURS

Book Tours with Oasis on phone: (08) 8672 5169 <https://www.oasiscooberpedy.com.au/index.php/tours/city-tour/30-tours>.



Sun: COMMUNITY AWARDS DINNER
John's Pizza Bar.



3 X OPAL RAFFLE DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED

Umoona Art Gallery
Underground Churches

Boot Hill Cemetery
CP Shooter's Club

Big Winch Lookout
Well Being labyrinth

Opal Shops galore

Restaurants

Faye's Underground Home

Greek Club Charcoal Grill

Working Mines

Breakaways/Dog Fence

Historical Society

Cultural Clubs
Blacklighting

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"



POSITION VACANT

MAKING A DIFFERENCE SO SOUTH AUSTRALIA THRIVES



SENIOR CASE OFFICER

Department for Correctional Services
 Coober Pedy Community Correctional Centre
 Ongoing
 Vac No: 650103
 \$85,790 - \$100,729 pa (AHP2/PO2/ASO5)

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

Applications close:
 11pm, 16 February 2025

W27366

IWORKFOR.SA.gov.au

POSITION VACANT

MAKING A DIFFERENCE SO SOUTH AUSTRALIA THRIVES



COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS OFFICER

Department for Correctional Services
 Coober Pedy Community Correctional Centre
 Ongoing
 Vac No: 650051
 \$67,589 - \$72,033 pa (OPS3)

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

Applications close:
 11pm, 16 February 2025

W27365

IWORKFOR.SA.gov.au

GRANT OPPORTUNITY

The Australian Government is inviting organisations to apply to deliver projects under the **Families and Communities Program**:

Strong and Resilient Communities Activity – Inclusive Communities (SARC – IC) Round 4
 Grants from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2027.

<https://www.grants.gov.au/Go>Show?GoUuid=4b1a76a5-9c25-41dc-b3eb-f3d6464db4d5&keyword=GO7370>

Young people aged 12 to 18 years who are disengaged, or at risk of disengaging, from education to reconnect with their community, school, training and/or employment.

People with disability to participate in the community, and work towards becoming or remaining independent and engaged in the economy and/or society.

Women who experience, or are at risk of experiencing, isolation, or discrimination to participate in the community and/or economy and increase their self-agency.

People who are unemployed to increase participation in their community and/or increase their capacity to engage in employment, training, or existing employment services.

POSITION VACANT



Government of South Australia
 Attorney-General's Department

PUBLIC NOTICE

ABORIGINAL LANDS TRUST VACANCY
 pursuant to the *Aboriginal Lands Trust Act 2013 (SA)*

ARE YOU AN ABORIGINAL PERSON INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING ABORIGINAL LANDS TRUST COMMUNITIES?

IF SO, THERE ARE VACANCIES AT THE ABORIGINAL LANDS TRUST FOR TERMS OF UP TO THREE-YEARS

If you have any of the following knowledge, skills, and experience, then please apply:

- South Australian Aboriginal community life and culture generally
- residential community life and culture on Trust Land
- the management and conservation of natural resources
- the management of agricultural and pastoral land
- commercial enterprise development
- property management and development
- ecologically sustainable development and/or
- corporate governance and administration.

Trust members are paid for their time. Meetings may occasionally be by video or teleconference. It is therefore desirable for nominees to have access to a reliable phone to participate in confidential calls.

For more information about the vacancies, please contact Joanne Fleer, Attorney-General's Department – Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, either by telephone on (08) 8363 8622 during office hours or by email at joanne.fleer@sa.gov.au.

If you would like to apply, please write a cover letter describing why you are interested and how your knowledge, skills and experience match with the above criteria. Please send your cover letter with a resume to:

Trust Selection Panel
 Attorney-General's Department
 Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation
 GPO Box 464
 ADELAIDE SA 5001

Email: joanne.fleer@sa.gov.au

The closing date for applications is Monday 3 March 2025

www.sa.gov.au

RED DIRT CP PTY LTD

Automotive Repair Shop

Coober Pedy & Oodnadatta

Motor Repairs

Servicing

Exhaust

Brakes

Truck/Trailer repairs

Steering/suspension

Clutch/transmission

Radios and cooling



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

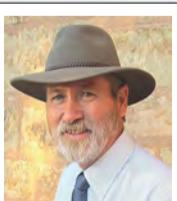
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100085582637596>

PHONE: 0488007450 or FB Messenger

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

CONTACT:

- Whyalla (08) 8645 4255
- Port Pirie (08) 8633 1744
- Kadina (08) 8821 4366



ROWAN RAMSEY MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR GREY

Serving the people of Coober Pedy

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@sacfs.volunteer.org.au

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

Speaker launches National Youth Parliament

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Honourable Milton Dick MP, has today launched a National Youth Parliament, to be held in 2026.

The National Youth Parliament will see 150 high school students selected to represent each electorate across Australia to participate in a three-day program in Canberra, including at Australia's Parliament House.

Youth Members will have the unique opportunity to learn about aspects of being a Member of Parliament, including the process by which bills are drafted, considered, and pass Parliament to become law.

The National Youth Parliament will complement the Speaker's existing civics education program, Parliament in Schools, which has already been delivered to over 145 schools across Australia, including regional and remote schools.

The National Youth Parliament will begin taking applications in the second half of this year.

House of Representatives, the Hon Milton Dick said, 'I am so proud that for the first time, the House of Representatives – the people's House – will be hosting this great program here in Canberra.'

'The National Youth Parliament will give our young people a national platform to contribute to democracy and politics through a hands-on experience.'

'Young people have a vital role to play in public discussion, and a youth parliament is a meaningful and sustained youth engagement model that we have seen across Australia and the Commonwealth.'

'I am so passionate about setting up the foundations to ensure our next generation have the skills, tools and knowledge to lead this country through the challenges of our future.'

'I look forward to welcoming students from all over Australia to develop their appreciation of civics, parliamentary debate and of course, strengthening our great democracy.'

2025 COOBER PEDY GEM TRADE SHOW

EASTER WEEKEND




FRIDAY 18th April
 Meet and Greet
 location: TBC

SATURDAY 19th April & SUNDAY 20th April
 Gem Trade Show
 Location: Croatian Club

Contact Us
 Cpgemtradeshaw@outlook.com

COURTS SA

Coober Pedy Magistrate Court

Malliotis Blvd. Coober Pedy (08) 8672 5601



Coober Pedy Sitting dates in MARCH 2025

Monday 24 March
 Tuesday 25 March
 Wednesday 26 March
 Thursday 27 March
 Friday 28 March

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

SA 2025 school terms

Term 1: Tuesday 28 January – Friday 11 April.

Term 2: Monday 28 April – Friday 4 July.

Term 3: Monday 21 July – Friday 26 September.

Term 4: Monday 13 October – Friday 12 December.

EASTER WEEKEND 2025

Friday 18 April - Good Friday

Saturday 19 April - Easter Saturday

Sunday 20 April - Easter Sunday

Monday 21 April - Easter Monday

The 2025 Australian federal election

will be held on or before 17 May 2025 (for half the Senate), or be held on or before 27 September 2025 (for the House) to elect members of the 48th Parliament of Australia. 150 (as opposed to 151 in previous elections) seats in the House of Representatives and likely 40 of the 76 seats in the Senate will be contested.

It is expected that at this election, the Labor government of Prime Minister Anthony Albanese will be seeking re-election to a second term in office, opposed by the Liberal/National Coalition under Leader of the Opposition Peter Dutton.

The 2026 South Australian state election will be held on 21 March 2026 to elect members to the 56th Parliament of South Australia.

All 47 seats in the House of Assembly (the lower house, whose members were elected at the 2022 election), and half the seats in the Legislative Council (the upper house, last filled at the 2018 election) are up for re-election.

The 2026 South Australian local elections will be held in November 2026 to elect the councils and mayors of 67 of the 68 local government areas (LGAs) in South Australia. The elections will be conducted by the Electoral Commission of South Australia (ECSA).

No election will be held in Roxby as it is served by an administrator who performs the functions of a council. An election for Coober Pedy is expected to be held for the first time since 2018, after the council was suspended in January 2019 and did not have an election in 2022.

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.

MAP BUS Tues to Sat. 4pm-12am.
Sobering Up Centre Tues - Sat 4pm - 8am

Umoona Tjiti 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@sacfs.volunteer.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 2024/2025

President Daniel Lamb
Senior Vice President Stephen Scott
Junior Vice President John Mc Dermott
Secretary John Di Donna
Treasurer Suzanne Bunker
Public Relations Jason Wright
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: Anthony Goodacre

Vice President: Mick Cox
Secretary: Kingsley Kammermann
Treasurer: Miriam Kammermann
Committee Members:

Raylene Hagel
Rebecca Adnum
Linda Buckeridge

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 2024/25

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 2025

Club Captain: Stephen Borrett
President: Chevahn Hoad
Vice President: Miro Markovic
Secretary: Nadine Lewis
Treasurer: Father Paul Crotty
Grounds Keeper: Dylan Lewis
Bar Manager: Stephen Borrett
Committee Members: Sue Britt, Bob Martin
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/>

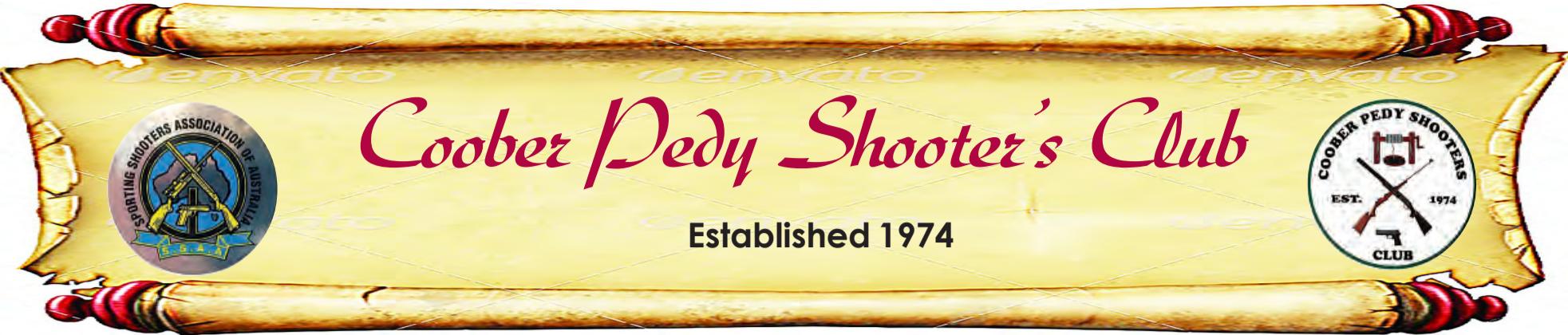
Coober Pedy Italian Club Inc

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



Coober 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)

1 February

8 February

15 February

22 February

1 March

DISCIPLINES INCLUDE:

- ◆ Air Rifle/pistol
- ◆ IPSC
- ◆ ISSF
- ◆ Rifle Metalic Silhouette
- ◆ Combine Service
- ◆ Black Powder
- ◆ Service pistol
- ◆ Shotgun
- ◆ Steel Challenge

Coober Pedy Shooter's Club supports:

- ◆ Darts
- ◆ Archery

Starting Time: 10:00 AM

Sundays Fly Shoot 50m Benchrest

2 February

9 February

16 February

23 February

2 March



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 cpsc.treasurer@gmail.com

John Di Donna - Mobile 0427 649 389 - Email. jdidonna@dodo.com.au