

DID BLOCKED CULVERTS AT COOPER PEDY CAUSE STORMWATER MAYHEM?

DURING THE THREE DAY RAIN EVENT: 21,22, 23 March, local residents noted that the bulk of the rain had bypassed the Cooper Pedy Airport Weather Station by at least 50% in comparison to that which fell on the populated town area. Thankfully a number of residents came forward with their private rainfall measurement.

We found those measurements to be consistent with each other, the video footage and other photographs taken during the storm. We thank everyone for their input.



Tanya Lauder

A high-point of the weekend flooding event at Cooper Pedy was residential roads at the edge of town becoming flowing rivers.

PRIOR TO THE WEEKEND DELUGE, Cooper Pedy experienced a 10 minute downpour between 4 & 5pm on Wednesday afternoon 19th March 2025. Locals measured up to 20mm in their rain gauges within that 10 minutes.

The Airport caught the edge of the storm but measured only 7.4mm.

There is no doubt that our gardens and the wildlife welcomed the downpour. There is also no doubt that the Cooper Pedy Airport Weather Station is not close enough to the town to record accurately or officially the amount of rain sustained in the populated DCCP jurisdiction.



10 minutes of heavy rain produced this flood at the bottom end of North West Ridge Cooper Pedy. (hardly 7.4mm!)

FLAT HILL ROAD, COOPER PEDY caught the attention of locals when what seemed like a series of blocked culverts created mayhem at the Post Hill Road intersection causing considerable flooding when it diverted stormwater into a business premises on Flat Hill Road on Wednesday 19th March between 4 - 5pm



A blocked culverts (on Flat Hill Road) after a heavy rain event on Wednesday 19th March

Residents attending the scene on Wednesday said the flooding incident was sudden, with water pouring into the property from the Post Office Hill Road corner, diagonally opposite the business premises. Water had filled up the yard inside of 10 minutes, submerging a great deal of mining equipment and related items.

The next day the owner found his security gates wouldn't operate due to the motor sitting in a pool of water.



Security Unit became submerged in flood water after storm at Cooper Pedy

On Thursday morning the owner of the property went to the council and spoke to a staff member notifying them of the blocked culvert(s), and the subsequent flooding. He felt confident that the powers that be would issue a work order to investigate why storm water wasn't being distributed effectively, and potentially unblock the clogged culverts.

The owner was not aware that there was another weather system on its way that would deliver over 60mm of water directly onto our town over the following weekend. He was helpless to protect his property otherwise.

He did not hear anything further from the council, and by Saturday evening the premises was under water again. This time with a vengeance. The rain persisted Friday night, Saturday, Saturday night and intermittently during Sunday.



Sunday morning after continuous overnight rain, the culvert is completely concealed by mud.



Photo: George Rosewarne

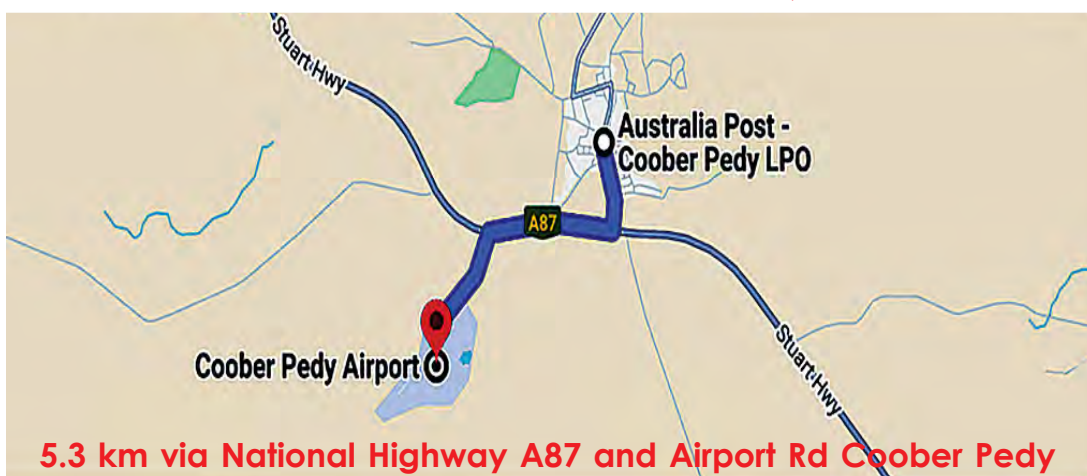
Storm water from Post Office Hill Road and Gough Street was still flowing into the property on Sunday afternoon, apparently bypassing the various culverts



Inaccessible machinery and equipment inside the flooded property on Flat Hill Rd. **To be continued.**

HEAVY RAINFALL AT COOPER PEDY

W/E incl FRI-NIGHT 21 MARCH, SATURDAY 22 MARCH, SUNDAY 23 MARCH 2025



5.3 km via National Highway A87 and Airport Rd Cooper Pedy

Cooper Pedy Township: Private readings
63.0 mm; 63.8mm; 64.0mm and 71mm

In the same time frame,
the Weather Station at Cooper Pedy Airport
registered a Total **34.6mm (BOM)**

Oodnadatta Total = 33mm (BOM)
Ernabella/Pukatja Total = 76.2 (BOM)

SERVING THE OPAL CAPITAL OF THE WORLD SINCE 1982

ABOUT US

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

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

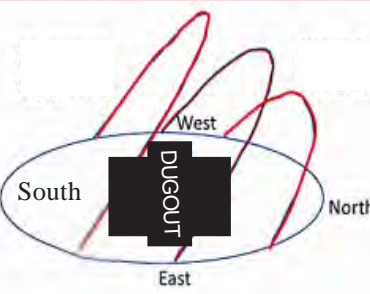
Editor - Margaret Mackay
PO Box 10 Coober Pedy SA 5723
Ph: (08) 8672 5920
Email: editor@cooberpedytimes.com
<https://cooberpedytimes.com/>

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7 DAYS WEATHER at COOBER PEDY Oodnadatta Tarcoola Andamooka Roxby Downs

| | MON Mar 24 | TUE Mar 25 | WED Mar 26 | THU Mar 27 | FRI Mar 28 | SAT Mar 29 | SUN Mar 30 |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Summary | Sunny | Windy | Windy | Windy | Windy | Mostly sunny | Mostly sunny |
| Maximum | 32°C | 34°C | 33°C | 33°C | 35°C | 35°C | 36°C |
| Minimum | 20°C | 20°C | 21°C | 22°C | 21°C | 21°C | 21°C |
| Chance of Rain Likely Amount | 5% < 1mm | 5% < 1mm | 30% < 1mm | 30% < 1mm | 5% < 1mm | 5% < 1mm | 30% < 1mm |
| UV Index | Very High | Very High | Very High | Very High | Very High | Very High | Very High |
| Frost Risk | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| | 9am 3pm | 9am 3pm | 9am 3pm | 9am 3pm | 9am 3pm | 9am 3pm | 9am 3pm |
| Wind Speed | 17km/h S | 27km/h SE | 27km/h SSE | 31km/h SE | 28km/h SE | 39km/h ESE | 28km/h SE |
| Relative Humidity | 71% | 30% | 48% | 34% | 70% | 39% | 67% |
| | 44% | 69% | 40% | 74% | 37% | 60% | 30% |




Winter 2025 June solstice
21 Jun 12:42 pm

Spring 2025 Sept equinox
23 Sep 4:19 am

MAILINGLIST

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

Local Scribes


Bi Monthly

Sgt Angus Lovelock joins the Coober Pedy Police Station after gaining local experience on the APY Lands, and also 2 years at Marla in the Far North, West Coast and Penong. Sgt Lovelock is previously from Adelaide where he began his career in policing 12 years ago.



Sgt Angus Lovelock,
fortnightly Police Reports.

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

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

*Spacious underground living

*Beautiful Opal Gemstones

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



Coober Pedy Regional Times ©

Coober Pedy - The True Jewel of South Australia

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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 04 Apr 2025
☐ Friday 18 Apr 2025
☐ Friday 09 May 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 Scahill

Four pillars of Democracy are

LEGISLATIVE : The body which makes laws for the state.

EXECUTIVE : Executes and enforces laws.

JUDICIARY : Works to protect laws.

PRESS/MEDIA : The 4th estate of democracy. It informs the public

'Media releases' may be submitted however there is no obligation on the newspaper to publish any part of it. Media releases are generally one sided so comments may, (or may not) be extracted and used in a related article. CPRT does not provide free space for political or business advertising.

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

1.) GROUPS & SPONSORSHIP

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

2. If seeking an Editorial - "Advertorial" or "Special Feature", please enquire about the cost first.

3.) Advertisers may be entitled to editorials

4.) Sponsorship for clubs or community programs is by arrangement.

CALLING all OPAL MINERS

Time to embark on that

COOBER PEDY PILGRIMAGE

EASTER LONG WEEKEND

- 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.

Sat/Sun COOBER PEDY ANNUAL GEM TRADE SHOW

Venue: Croatian Club 2 Days

Sat: LOCAL STALLS & CAMP OVEN, Italian Club

Sun: COMMUNITY AWARDS DINNER

John's Pizza Bar.

OPAL RAFFLE WINNERS TO BE ANNOUNCED

All Weekend NOBLE TOURS

Morning and afternoon tours highlighting the best of Coober Pedy, around town and the Breakaways.

Book online nobletravelsaustralia.com.au or 0499 500 932

All Weekend OPAL HUNTING AT NIGHT

Book via SMS at: <https://opalhuntingatnight.com/>

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>.

OPAL INDUSTRY NEWS



Active Claims as at the 21/03/2025

Coober Pedy: 437; Andamooka: 159;

Mintabie: 9; Stuart Creek: 1



WOOMERA ACCESS

All WPA opal mining and precious stone prospecting permits have a common expiry date of 31 March.

You must reapply each year for access to the WPA under a permit.



“Amnesty Period”

for **OPAL MINERS** has concluded.



Government of South Australia
Department for Energy and Mining

MINTABIE OPAL FIELD

Access to the Mintabie Opal Field is **restricted** due to the current rehabilitation program underway in the Mintabie township area.

The township area is closed with **NO** access to the public, access to the opal field is available via the Airstrip Road, as indicated by detour signs.

Only **authorized opal miners** with the appropriate permits are permitted to prospect and mine in the Mintabie Opal Field. Unauthorized access may result in legal consequences.

If you are an authorized opal miner, ensure you have the necessary endorsements and comply with all regulations when accessing the Mintabie Opal Field.

For further information, please contact the Coober Pedy Registrar Office at (08) 8672 5800.

The Mintabie Opal Field is located within the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands. Access to the field is governed by the Opal Mining Act 1995 and the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights Act 1981.

AN
OPPORTUNITY
TO BUY DIRECT
FROM THE
MINER



ROUGH OPAL



2025 Coober Pedy Gem Trade Show

ALL BOOTHS ARE FULLY BOOKED

Don't miss the opportunity to come see and buy a wide selection of Opals direct from THE OPAL CAPITAL OF THE WORLD @ the Croatian Club Coober Pedy Easter long weekend 19th & 20th April.

OPAL JEWELLERY

CUT OPAL





Coober Pedy POLICE REPORT 07/03/2025 - 20/03/2025

10/03/2025 – Police are investigating a break in to a business premises on Robins Boulevard overnight where a quantity of alcohol was stolen. Anyone with information is asked to call Crime Stoppers.

14/03/2025 – Police are investigating a break in to a business overnight on Hutchison Street after persons gained entry and stole a small amount of property. Investigations are continuing.

13/03/2025 and **18/03/2025** – Police are investigating two separate grassfires that occurred within several days of each other. In the early hours of Thursday morning, CFS and police were called to a small grass fire in the area between Jones Street and Medway Drive.

Then again on Tuesday morning CFS and police responded to second grass fire near Medway Drive. There was no damage to property and the source of ignition remains unknown.

Police ask the public to be vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour to the police assistance line on 131 444.

**Anyone with information regarding the fires
is asked to call Crime Stoppers
on 1800 333 000**

EIGHT PEOPLE ARRESTED FOR DRUG SEIZURES ACROSS THE FAR NORTH

20 Mar 2025 6:09pm. Far North Police have arrested eight people during an operation targeting the sale and supply of illicit drugs.

Since the commencement of the operation in December 2024, the following results have been achieved to date -

- Eight people have been arrested for trafficking in a controlled drug
- Five premises have been searched.
- Over 150 charges of trafficking in a controlled drug have been laid.
- Seven seizures, capturing over 200 exhibits including in excess of 1.3kg of Methamphetamine.
- In excess of \$10,000.00 seized
- One high-end vehicle seized for forfeiture.
- Stolen property recovered, including a valuable guitar and motorcycle stolen during break-in's to local properties.

The arrested people are -

A 32-year-old man from Whyalla.

• Two men aged 68 and 57-years and two women aged 40 and 41-years from Whyalla Norrie.

• A 40-year-old man and a 46-year-old woman from Port Augusta West.

• A 30-year-old man from Port Augusta.

Anyone with information regarding the sale or distribution of illicit drugs is asked to call Crime Stoppers on 1800 33 000 or online at www.crimestopperssa.com.au – You can remain anonymous.



What is a Declared Public Precinct?

IN DISCUSSION: A Declared Public Precinct is a strictly defined area that has been proclaimed to give certain powers to police to maintain public safety and order in that area.

These powers give police the ability to issue expiation notices for offences within the geographic area or to issue barring orders covering the precinct. These are similar to, but in addition to, licensed premises barring orders.

If you are subject to any of the above, you are legally required to comply with the officer's direction.

<https://www.police.sa.gov.au/your-safety/declared-public-precincts>

Police Station OPENING HOURS



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



Contact us

Independent Commission Against Corruption SA
<https://www.icac.sa.gov.au> › about-us › get-in-touch
Email enquiries@icac.sa.gov.au
Postal GPO Box 11066, Adelaide, South Australia, 5001
Telephone (08) 8463 5191, In person Level 9, 55 Currie St

MINERS ASSOCIATION CONSULTS ON RISING MINING FEES.

On Saturday 15 March 2025 the Coober Pedy Miner’s Association Inc held a Special General Meeting to consult with members on the proposed new fees for opal mining claims and other related compliances and fees.

PSPP holders & interested others were invited. The fee increases would affect Opal Miners at Coober Pedy, Andamooka, Mintabie and Stuart Creek in South Australia.

The proposed fee increases are above the CPI increase, but based on cost recovery principals, and would reflect a general 10% rise across the board in 2025-26 with some items, such as extra-large claims, subjected to an adjustment by area with a higher fee imposed.

There is also a proposed further 10% rise across the next 3-5 years with CPI adjustment applied annually after that. The table of proposed new fees was made available at the meeting.

President, Matt Graham, explained that the increase in fees was to do everything possible to keep the department open in the Far North. The local Mines Department is currently considering moving back to their old building in Malliotis Blvd, to help contain growing costs. “We have the ability to alter these and to write to the Government with alternatives if we don’t agree. We need to write a strong letter,” said Matt

“If it becomes too expensive it might push miners out. We want to encourage more opal miners, and that would generate more money for the Mines Department. We would like to attract Government support after all it is Australia’s National Gemstone, and the government help BHP and others, but don’t do as much for Opal Mining”.

Matt pointed out that Coober Pedy was built on the back of Opal Mining, and supporting the industry could be a whole of town effort including tourism. Matt asked members to email him with suggestions by the 1st April so the Association can finalise a letter.

There was a robust Questions and Answers session following President Matt Graham’s introduction to the fee increase proposal. This commentary has been noted. The suggestions forwarded to the Miner’s Association by the 1st April will also be valuable in the final submission.

Similarly the Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association are having their meeting at 6pm Tuesday 8th April to discuss the proposal to increase fees, and have extended an invitation to opal miners in Coober Pedy to attend if they wish.



A good opportunity for Opal Miners to catch up on a bit of business



Coober Pedy Miner’s Association Inc; Special General Meeting Saturday 15 March 2025



Opal Industry players arriving at the CPMAI meeting



The meeting was well supported by the Opal Mining community



Retired Opal Miners, Arthur and Con attended the CPMAI meeting

After the meeting the members enjoyed a Sausage Sizzle generously cooked by the Italian Club Committee members.

CP COMMUNITY ALLIANCE MEETING

Saturday 29 March 4pm, Italian Club, Coober Pedy

AGENDA

Chair: John Di Donna
Vice Chair: George Rosewarne
Member Teena Rosewarne JP
Media Officer: M. Mackay CPRT

1. **SAPOL:**

Update Public Precinct, and local crime

2 **Rowen Ramsey MP**

Feedback from the last meeting

3 **Meeting with Patrick Colon (26 March 25)**

Update on Administrator activities from Teena

4 **Open Letter to CEO Garry Herdegen**

Response from CEO Garry Herdegen on the open letter regarding Council's pursuit of a whistleblower/ratepayer using rate payers' funds.

5 **Other Business.**

including flooding issues

Thank you for your attendance.

Please be aware that you may not speak during the meeting. The sound system is very limited. Feel free to sit outside to chat and enable others to hear the meeting, and to understand the speakers.

If you need or wish to address an agenda item, please use the microphone.



♦ **Sausage sizzle,**
Courtesy Italian Club

The Coober Pedy Community Alliance is holding an

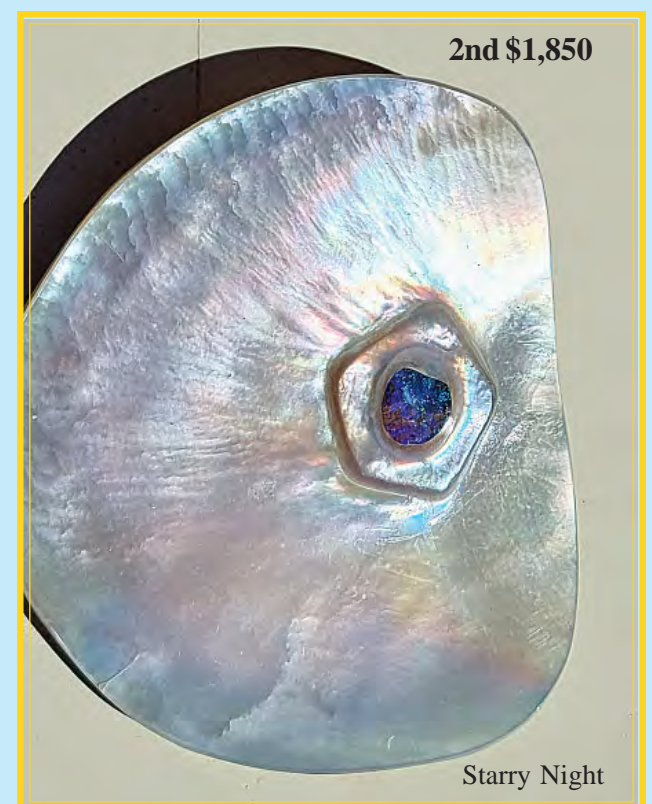
EASTER RAFFLE,

thanks to a generous donation by Pearl-Opal grower Steve Koncz
Pearl-Opals are where 'The desert meets the ocean'



TICKETS ARE
\$5.00 EACH,
and will be
drawn on
Easter Sunday
evening at
John's Pizza Bar

Tickets will be
available at functions
held at the Italian
Club, Coober Pedy.



Proceeds to support the
CP Community Awards,
plus a safety initiative that will benefit older
members of the Coober Pedy Community.

(more info at next meeting)

Celebration of the Life of Katatjunti

Thank you all for coming today to celebrate the life of Katatjunti.

Jack led a long and full life, touching the lives of all he met along the way with his happy gentle nature and infectious smile.

Happy memories are held by family, friends and acquaintances all over Australia.

So many stories are being shared with respect laughter and love, Jack has left a fantastic legacy for us all to follow in his memory.

Particularly for his family, he is a much-loved husband, Uncle, Brother and Father, Grandfather, Great Grandfather and Great, Great Grandfather to his large blended family.

He never saw black or white, he only seen people.

He shared his experiences, beliefs and spirit with all.

Never holding a grudge and always quick to forgive.

Jack embraced whatever life handed him, he met his challenges head on and accepted with confidence all the life changes he experienced, including going from bush living to station living, to travelling with the rodeo's, living and working in the city of Melbourne, whilst still riding in rodeo's, breaking in horses and working on many outback stations.

Jack spent many years at Wilcannia working for Council and on stations.

Jack returned to Port Augusta in the 70's where he worked for Umoona Council, Coober Pedy on the waterworks program, then onto opal mining in Coober Pedy, before joining the SA Police Force in 1994 as a well-respected Community Policeman.

Jack retired from the police force in 2001 and we moved out to the Parantie Bore Homelands, Jack was building fences and horse yards with the CDEP Workers.

We then travelled in our caravan to Darwin, stopping at various places along the way over a 6-month period, returning to Muntijula Community. Jack worked at the Aboriginal

Health Clinic – as a patient transport officer and I worked with the Muntijula Community Aged Care Program, Jack also gave support to this Program.

We then moved on to Docker River Community, we were tasked with re-establishing their Aged Care Facility, we both developed and taught Cultural training: Sharing the Journey – Crossings Cultures, to the Aged Care staff, Youth Care workers and Council staff.

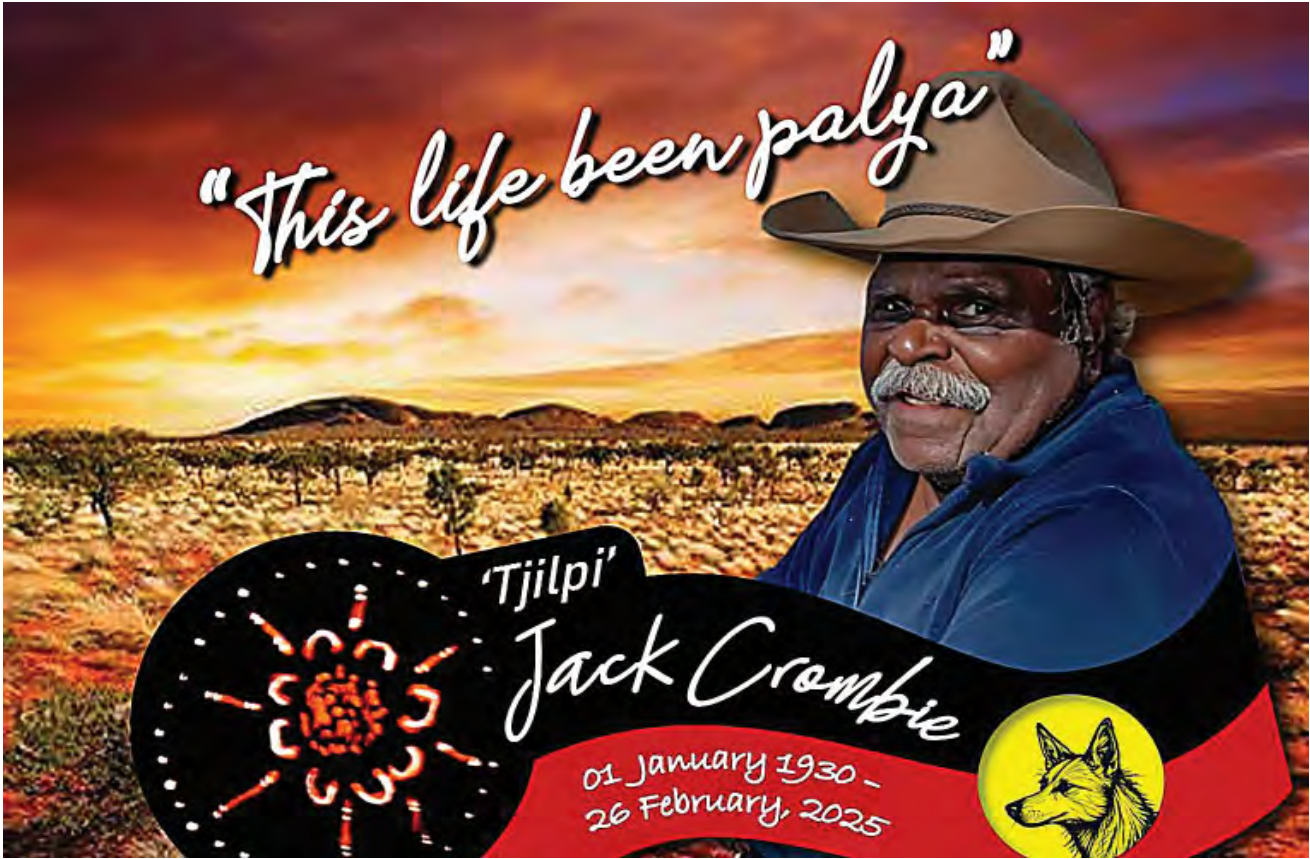
We retired, moving into our beautiful minor's cottage at Burra SA, but this did not last long as Red Cross asked us to introduce humanitarian programs to Communities.

Our journey then led us to Wannan, Western Australia, we introduced and liaised the home and community care programs to 9 different local Communities.

Then we moved onto Alice Springs, NT, both of us were employed by Red Cross Australia.

working part time during the day and at night working part time night patrols around Alice Springs township.

We introduced Red Cross to 14 Communities in the Northern Territory, while teaching Red Cross staff Culture Procedures and Practices.



Jack embraced whatever life handed him, he met his challenges head on and accepted with confidence all the life changes he experienced (Eulogy compiled by Gwen Crombie)

Moving down to Ernabella, APY Lands, SA. I worked as the Office Coordinator for Ernabella Council while Jack emersed himself into voluntary work within the Community.

Then back to Red Cross we went, Aparwilatja APY Lands out of Fregon, SA, we introduced Red Cross to a further 9 Communities.

We continued to deliver the Culture Training to local community members across the APY Lands across many Communities and to the Port Augusta and Port Lincoln prisons.

Jack retired at this point but continued to work with Red Cross Port Augusta in a voluntary role.

We then moved across to Blyth, SA and enjoyed our retirement, going for drives to Wallaroo beach with our dogs.

Due to Jacks declining health, he wanted to return to "Country", so we moved back up to Coober Pedy, however after 2 years due to further health decline we moved down to

Murray Bridge and Jack lived his final days receiving great care from Lerwin Nursing Home, turning 95 years of age before moving onto his ancestors dreaming.

Jack was equally at home and friends with those that were down on their luck or rich and famous. Greeting all with his huge smile and a "good day mate, palya".

Slim Dusty, Bluey Francis and Glen Skuthorpe, all wrote songs pertaining to Jack.

Jack featured in many documentaries, newspaper articles and television advertisements and receiving many awards, including an OAM – Order of Australia Medal from the Australian Governor General in 2019.

Jack also led the parade on horseback at the Melbourne showgrounds during the 1950's, meeting and shaking hands with Queen Elizabeth 11, not long after her Coronation.

The past 10 years have been particularly challenging and confusing for Jack as he negotiated his way through his illness, losing his independence and mobility, followed by the ability to communicate effectively.

Jack battled on maintaining his happy, gentle nature, with a big smile for all up until the very end, passing quietly with dignity while listening to the music of his people, which he dearly loved.

Jack would say, don't grieve, stay safe, love one another and remember me!"

Nguntju palya (are you ok)?



STRANDED FAMILY - FOUND SAFE AND WELL - BUT TRAVELING ON CLOSED, FLOODED ROADS

Shortly after 4pm on Sunday afternoon 23 March, police located a group of 4 missing people travelling on flooded outback roads enroute to Finke in the NT. Police had been searching for the group last seen at 4pm on Friday 21 March.

Police were able to communicate with the group by phone which was supplied to them, along with food supplies. There did not seem to be any immediate welfare concerns, and due to the conditions the rescue was facilitated on Monday 24 March.

Police would like to thank the public for their assistance.

The family of four, including two children had been travelling between Oodnadatta SA and Finke in the NT in a black Holden Captiva, however police believed they might be south of the Eringa water hole.

The group had chosen to travel on roads that the Department of Infrastructure and Transport had officially closed due to severe flooding. See current map put out by DIT of flooded outback roads in the vicinity of the rescue. Red indicates Closed Roads.

Always remember to call Police on these numbers: 131444 or 000 in an emergency.



AI-powered breath test could detect silicosis early

UNSW Sydney: The new test for silicosis has shown promise in an early study, and is now being analysed in larger cohorts.

A new diagnostic tool developed by physicians and scientists from UNSW Sydney that analyses a person's breath for signs of silicosis has the potential to catch the disease earlier rather than wait for irreversible lung damage to appear.

In a study published today in the Journal of Breath Research by Professor William Alexander Donald and Conjoint Professor Deborah Yates, the researchers describe a rapid, AI-powered breath test that could transform the way silicosis is diagnosed. The test combines mass spectrometry – a scientific technique that analyses molecules – and AI to rapidly detect silicosis from breath samples, providing a fast and non-invasive diagnostic tool for at-risk workers.

Silicosis, which is a lung disease caused by inhaling tiny crystalline particles of silicon dioxide, is a major occupational health concern in Australia, with cases now extending beyond engineered stone workers to workers in tunnelling and construction. The Australian government has responded with a ban on engineered stone, but with new cases emerging from other high-risk industries, there is an urgent need for better diagnostic tools.

Unlike traditional methods such as X-rays and CT scans that detect silicosis at later stages, the UNSW-developed test provides results in minutes.

“Our study shows that the AI-driven model accurately distinguished silicosis patients from healthy individuals based on their breath profiles, providing a reliable tool for early detection,” lead researcher Prof. Donald from UNSW's School of Chemistry says.

“This suggests that breath testing could be a practical tool for large-scale worker screening and early intervention.

“The study analysed breath samples from 31 silicosis patients and 60 healthy controls, confirming the test's ability to differentiate between affected and unaffected individuals with high accuracy.

How it works

To be tested for silicosis using the new technology, participants breathe into a bag. The breath content then gets pushed to a mass spectrometer which detects all the different molecules present.

“In human breath, there are thousands of organic molecules that you breathe out,” Prof. Donald says.

“Our instrument can make a profile of the someone's breath, and then we feed that into an artificial intelligence algorithm that's really good at finding patterns. In this case, it's looking for patterns in the organic compounds that are present in the breath of people in the early stages of silicosis. And we're getting very high accuracies, like over 90% accuracy, for just such a simple, non-invasive breath test.”

The entire breath sampling and analysis process takes less than five minutes per patient, making it suitable for routine screening of at-risk workers.

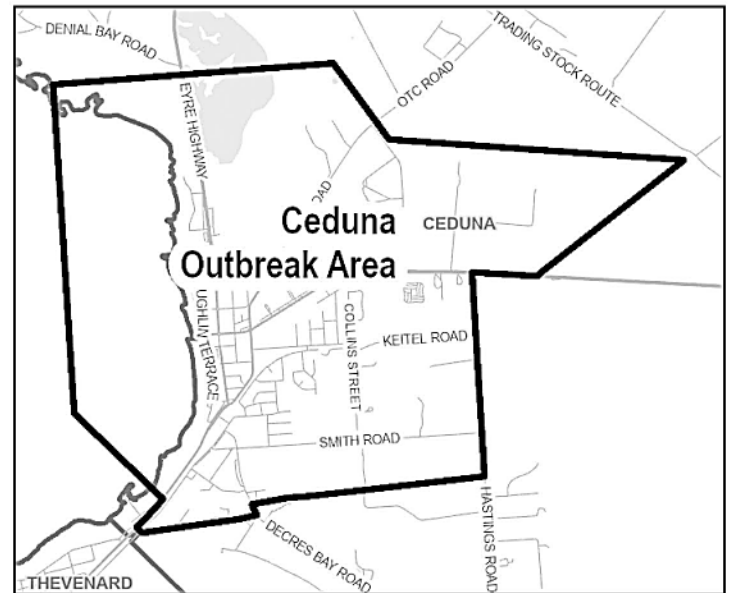
“By combining advanced chemical analysis techniques with AI, it means we can now detect silicosis in minutes rather than waiting for irreversible lung damage to appear on scans,” Prof. Donald says.

The researchers emphasise that while the breath test shows great promise, further validation in larger cohorts is needed before it can be implemented as a routine screening tool. The instrument is a compact benchtop system, occupying less than a cubic meter, making it feasible for installation in clinical settings for point-of-care testing. While breath samples are currently collected in clinics and transported to the lab for analysis, future implementation could enable direct, on-site testing.

“We've now installed this testing at a second site to test its effectiveness with hundreds of at-risk workers, including coal miners to further validate its effectiveness,” Prof. Donald said.

Future studies will refine the technique, integrate it into screening programs for silica-exposed workers, and explore its ability to differentiate silicosis from other lung diseases.

FRUIT FLY OUTBREAK CEDUNA



A Mediterranean fruit fly (Med-fly) outbreak has been declared in Ceduna following the detection of adult flies in monitoring traps.

A 1.5 km radius red outbreak zone has been established around the detection. This means there are quarantine restrictions until at least 29 May 2025. If you live in the area, visit fruitfly.sa.gov.au to understand the restrictions in place.

Host fruit and vegetables cannot move outside the red outbreak zone or go into compost. Visit fruitfly.sa.gov.au to find out what fruit and vegetables are hosts.

We have begun eradication activities in the area. PIRSA field staff with ID will be visiting properties to apply organic fruit fly bait and check fruit for signs of fruit fly. If you need to

move commercial produce from outbreak areas, please call the industry hotline on **1800 255 556**.

What you need to do:

- **Pick** your ripe fruit and vegetables.
- **Collect** fallen fruit, double bag the waste, seal it closed, and put it in a general waste bin.
- **Check** your fruit for blemishes and maggots.
- **Call** the Fruit Fly Hotline on **1300 666 010** if you find any larvae in fruit, seal the item in an airtight bag and arrange collection.

For more information, visit fruitfly.sa.gov.au or call **1300 666 010**.



Government of South Australia
Department of Primary Industries and Regions

W28020

Early detection

Prof. Yates has seen many cases of silicosis as a clinician. Silicosis is an incurable and totally preventable disease which only has one cause – the inhalation of excess respirable free silica dust.

Silica dust exposure occurs in a wide variety of different jobs from tunnelling and stone benchtop work to construction and tiling.

“There are three stages of silicosis,” says Prof. Yates.

“It can be difficult to diagnose such patients, especially in the early stages of disease. Sometimes a biopsy is needed, which is invasive and expensive.

“So it is crucial to detect affected workers early and remove them from further silica exposure in order to stop the progression of their disease.”

There is no cure for silicosis and in its worst stages, it is fatal. Lung transplantation is a rare option for silicosis but is a scarce resource and not every patient is suitable.

“Currently in NSW, workers are increasingly being diagnosed with silicosis at younger ages, reflecting excess dust exposures,” Prof. Yates says.

In addition to silicosis, there are several other diseases which can arise from silica exposure including lung fibrosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung cancer, and autoimmune diseases like rheumatoid arthritis and scleroderma.

“Breath testing is a new and simple technique for patients and doctors but has been valuable in other lung diseases such as asthma. It could provide the non-invasive method needed to monitor such workers for development of silicosis.

Although this research is yet in its early stages and will need further development, it provides a ‘breath of hope’ for the future,” Prof. Yates says.

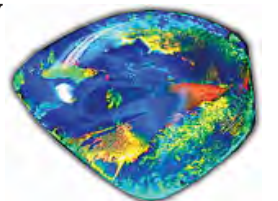
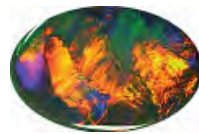
This research was supported by the iCare Dust Diseases Board through a Discovery and Innovation grant.

CALLING all OPAL MINERS

Time to embark on that

COOBER PEDY PILGRIMAGE

EASTER LONG WEEKEND



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

Highlights: SEE Pg 3

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
is open
April - December
Thursday 5-10pm and
Friday nights 5 - 1am.

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

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

AN
OPPORTUNITY
TO BUY DIRECT
FROM THE
MINER

ROUGH OPAL

**2025 Coober Pedy Gem
Trade Show**

ALL BOOTHS ARE FULLY BOOKED

Don't miss the opportunity to come see and buy a
wide selection of Opals direct from
THE OPAL CAPITAL OF THE WORLD
@ the Croatian Club Coober Pedy
Easter long weekend 19th & 20th April.

OPAL JEWELLERY

CUT OPAL



COOBER PEDY GEM TRADE SHOW

2025 Meet & Greet

Good Friday 18th of April from 6pm

Location - CK Confectionaire
underground cafe (new location)
335 Trow place, Coober Pedy

3 course buffet - vegan & gluten free
options available

\$70 per head

Please RSVP by 7th of April.

Limited spaces available!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE A COPY OF THE MENU OR
HAVE ANY ENQUIRIES PLEASE EMAIL -
cpgemtradeshow@outlook.com

CK UNDERGROUND
FIDO-ASIAN CAFE AND FOOD HUB

**2025 GEM TRADE SHOW
MEET AND GREET
MENU**

BUFFET
\$70 / PER HEAD

STARTER
Fresh Garden Salad (VG GF)
Crispy Tofu Bites with creamy savoury white sauce
Vegetarian Spring Rolls (VG)

SIDES
Kartoffelsalat (VG GF)
Seasoned Steamed Rice (VG GF)
Roast Veggies and Greens (VG GF)

MAINS
TEXAS STYLE SMOKED BBQ RIBS
Fall-off-the-bone tender ribs, slow-smoked to
perfection and caramelized with a rich, smoky
hickory barbecue sauce.

LEMON HERB ROAST CHICKEN
Juicy roasted chicken marinated in fresh herbs,
garlic, and lemon.

ESCABECHE
Crispy, golden-fried fish topped with a vibrant
sweet and tangy pickled vegetable sauce, infused
with garlic, vinegar, and bell peppers for a burst of
flavour.

KOREAN JAPCHAE - (V/ GF)
Savory-sweet, stir-fried glass noodles, perfectly
tossed with vibrant vegetables, fragrant sesame oil,
and a rich soy-based sauce for a truly delicious
dish.

DESSERT
Assorted dessert platter
(V/ GF options available)

Fire Danger Season end dates

Fire Ban District Finish

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| North East Pastoral | 31 March 2025 |
| North West Pastoral | 31 March 2025 |
| Flinders | 15 April 2025 |
| Eastern Eyre Peninsula | 15 April 2025 |
| Lower Eyre Peninsula | 30 April 2025 |
| Lower South East | 30 April 2025 |
| Mid North | 30 April 2025 |
| Upper South East | 15 April 2025 |
| West Coast | 30 April 2025 |
| Mount Lofty Ranges | 30 April 2025 |
| Murraylands | 30 April 2025 |
| Riverland | 30 April 2025 |
| Yorke Peninsula | 30 April 2025 |
| Kangaroo Island | 30 April 2025 |
| Adelaide Metropolitan | 30 April 2025 |

Buffel grass nominated as a Weed of National Significance

Buffel grass, an introduced weed that is transforming desert ecosystems across Australia, has been nominated for recognition by the Australian Government as a Weed of National Significance (WoNS).

The WoNS list was established in 1999 and last updated in 2012. Plant species are assessed for inclusion based on their invasiveness, potential for spread, and their environmental, social and cultural impacts.

The buffel grass nomination was submitted by the Indigenous Desert Alliance (IDA), in partnership with the Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board (AWLB) and the Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC). Comprised of evidence gleaned from research papers, documents, photographs and presentations from multiple organisations and individuals, the nomination included letters of support from 48 organisations, and an open letter signed by 83 organisations from every mainland state and the Northern Territory.

Nominating buffel grass as a WoNS highlights the urgency of the problem and recognises that buffel grass is causing negative impacts in many areas of Australia. It affects multiple sectors, including the environment, culture, tourism, the arts and health, with serious social and cultural outcomes.

“Since its introduction into central Australia last century for dust control and livestock production, buffel grass has spread across parts of the landscape causing problems for biodiversity, natural and cultural heritage and infrastructure,” says the Hon Dr Susan Close, Deputy Premier and Minister for Climate, Environment and Water. “Buffel grass is highly flammable and has been implicated in accelerating wildfires in Australia and elsewhere, including Hawaii.

“South Australia took the lead in 2015 as the first jurisdiction in Australia to declare buffel grass under its weed management legislation, and we are fortunate that many areas of South Australia remain free of buffel grass. Declaring buffel grass a Weed of National Significance would support national efforts to protect our environment.”

The buffel crisis affects land tenures such as municipal, conservation and infrastructure, with First Nations

communities particularly impacted. Impacts of buffel grass include:

- Increased frequency and intensity of fires impacting the safety of communities
- Risk to critical infrastructure including road/rail transportation network, powerlines and renewable energy projects.
- Listed as a key threat in the conservation advice and recovery plans of at least 31 Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC) listed species
- Simplification (damage) of structure and composition of plant and animal communities
- Impact on First Nations including loss of bush foods and medicines, impacts on special places and ability to undertake traditional cultural practices and pass on knowledge to younger generations.

Listing buffel as a WoNS would be a major step forward in the management of this ecological transformer weed, which would benefit immensely from a national approach. Considerable resources are already dedicated by small teams trying to limit the spread of buffel, and the strengthening and coordination of these efforts through a national management plan can limit the further spread of the weed and manage its impacts, including heightened fire risk.

The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board has been a leader in buffel management in South Australia for many years, since before it was declared a weed in this state. Buffel Grass State Coordinator Troy Bowman was one of the authors of the nomination and believes it is an opportunity to take meaningful action on one of the biggest environmental threats facing Australia’s rangelands.

“Buffel grass is a crisis that needs our immediate attention,” Bowman says. “A national approach is critical to limit its spread, to mitigate the damage already done to Country, and to prevent a further increase in the risk of fire to Australian communities.”

The nomination will be assessed by a panel appointed by the Australian Government. A decision is expected later this year.

WOOMERA PROHIBITED AREA - EXCLUSION PERIODS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2025-26

Exclusion period notification

Access to the Woomera Prohibited Area (WPA) in South Australia is subject to exclusion periods during which Defence may undertake war materiel testing. For safety and security reasons, designated zones within the WPA will be closed and you may be required to evacuate the area during the notified exclusion periods.

Amber Zone exclusion periods for Financial Year 2025-26

Defence’s exclusion periods within WPA Amber Zones 1 and 2 for the financial year, 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026, are listed in Attachment A. The exclusion periods are published on the Federal Register of Legislation at: <https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2025L00363>

Remaining exclusion periods for Financial Year 2024-25

The exclusion periods for the 2024-25 financial year, 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, which remain in force include:

- Amber Zone 1 from 13 May 2025 to 30 June 2025.
- Amber Zone 2 from 3 June 2025 to 30 June 2025.

Map of WPA access zones

The WPA access zones are shown in the map at Attachment B. Different periods of exclusion may apply to each zone, including the Red Zone, Amber Zone 1 and Amber Zone 2. A more detailed map showing the WPA and access zone boundaries is available from the South Australian Resources Information Geoserver (SARIG) site at: <https://map.sarig.sa.gov.au/>:

- at the bottom of the page, select the ‘All Map Layers’ tab and type Woomera in the ‘Search map catalog’ box;
- select ‘Land use – restricted exploration or production access’, then;
- select the ‘Woomera Prohibited Area - outer boundary’ and ‘Woomera Prohibited Area - access zones’ boxes.

Notifications and exclusion period variations

Defence will endeavour to give permit holders and non-Defence users affected by exclusion periods as much notice as possible, including when Defence cancels a published exclusion period.

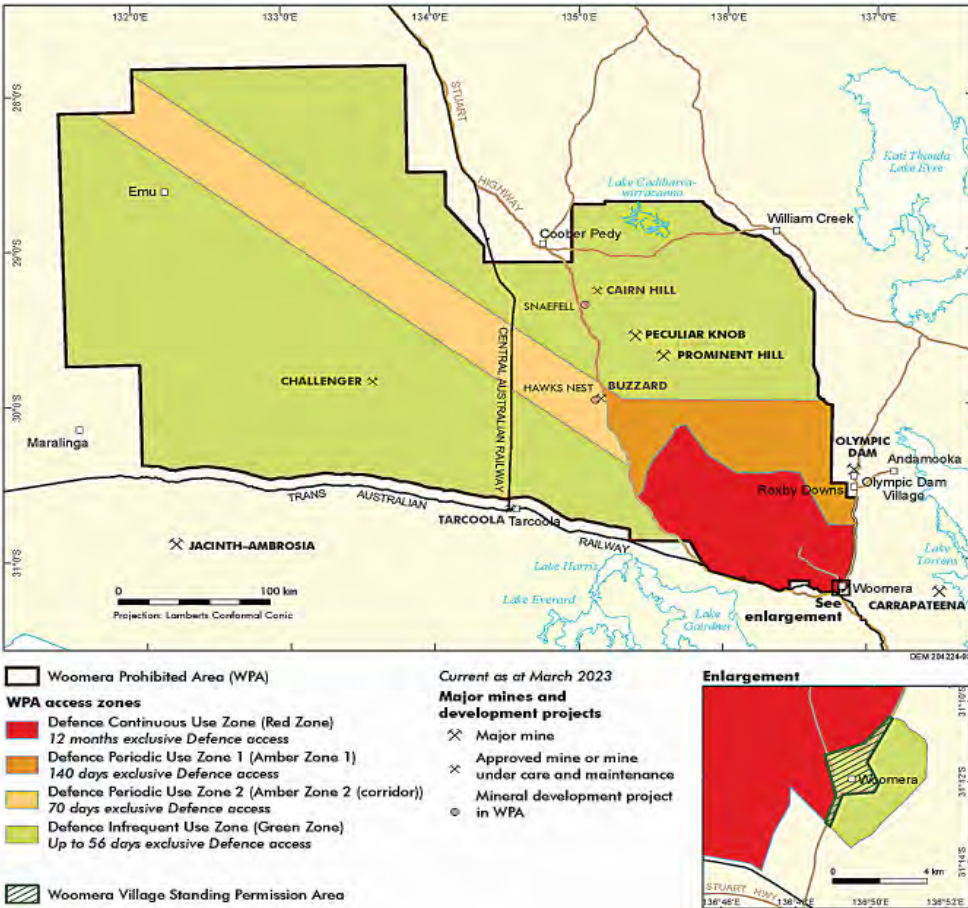
Enquiries about tourist permits should be directed to woomera.enquiries@defence.gov.au.

Further information or advice

Updates to exclusion periods and additional information is available on the WPA website at: www.defence.gov.au/bases-locations/sa/woomera.

If you have any queries or would like to subscribe to the exclusion period updates, please contact the WPA Coordination Office by phone on 1300 727 420 or by email to WPACO@defence.gov.au.

When exclusion periods are underway, please contact the Woomera Test Range on 1300 972 335 (select option 1) for daily information about any access restrictions.



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

I can work in a multi-disciplinary team which helps me to get the best results for my clients. I am part of a supportive and caring team environment, where my colleagues are my best friends. There are many opportunities to diversify my role and continually challenge myself to improve the lives of country people and their families.

Cook
Coober Pedy Hospital
Job Ref: 895402

www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/careers

i can

...achieve true work life balance in a country community



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

Triple Zero (000)
For emergencies or life threatening situations.

Police Assistance Line (131 444)
For non emergencies.

Crime Stoppers (1800 333 000)
To provide crime information. It can be anonymous.

Elder Abuse is everyone's business

Together we say

NO to DOMESTIC & FAMILY VIOLENCE
and
YES to RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS



We know Elder Abuse can happen anywhere – in residential aged care, home care and in families. As with many forms of abuse, it can be hard to speak out. Sometimes it's even difficult to admit it to yourself.

We also know silence is its biggest ally. When Elder Abuse happens within families in particular, people can feel ashamed to seek help and be fearful of reprisal.

Elder Abuse can come in a number of subtypes, which often co-exist in combinations. The most prevalent forms in 2020 reported were:

Psychological abuse (13%), Neglect (3%) and Financial abuse (2%). Physical and Sexual abuse are the other two types of abuse, the latter not surprisingly, being the least reported of all.

Findings show 84% of older people experiencing sexual abuse did not seek help.

Quick facts about elder abuse:

- Nationally, 15% of people aged 65 years+ will have experienced Elder Abuse (or 1-in-6)
 - Both older men and women experience similar rates of abuse
 - Perpetrators of Elder Abuse are often family members, mostly adult children, but can also be friends, neighbours and acquaintances
 - Almost two-thirds of older people do not seek help when they are abused (61%)
 - The group at greatest risk of abuse is 65 to 69 year-olds
- (2021 National Elder Abuse Prevalence Study: Summary Report)

FRRR seeks representatives for 3 advisory committees

19 March 2025: FRRR (Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal) is currently seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified people from remote, rural and regional Australia to sit on one of three bodies that advise the FRRR Board.

Two of the three are Program Advisory Committees seeking to refresh their membership and expand representation, while the third is a completely new Outback Advisory Board.

Natalie Egleton, FRRR CEO, said that each of these bodies plays a critical role in the effective governance of the nearly \$20 million that the Foundation, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, awards annually.

"While our staff do very thorough and detailed initial assessments of applications, for the most part it is the Program Advisory Committees that recommend where our scarce funds are allocated.

To ensure that we are directing grants where they are needed most, we have Program Advisory Committees comprising people with relevant lived experience sitting alongside FRRR Directors and our donor partners. Their insights and knowledge of the subject matter are critical to our decisions.

"Right now, we are seeking people with experience or interest in mental health and community wellbeing to join our In a Good Place Program Advisory Committee, and people with experience in climate and energy transitions to join our Community Led Climate Solutions advisory committee," Ms Egleton explained.

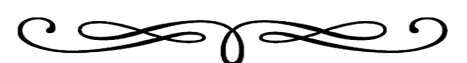
FRRR is also establishing an Outback Advisory Board, whose remit will be to advise the Board more broadly on issues and opportunities in remote and outback Australia.

"We have supported remote, rural and regional Australia for more than 25 years and it's become apparent that remote, very remote and outback Australia has specific challenges and needs.

To ensure that our granting and capacity building support, and our advocacy, fully reflect this uniqueness, the Board has decided to appoint an Outback Advisory Board. Its remit will be to bring a national perspective, as well as local knowledge, to our granting programs, as well as to our advocacy activities, such as submissions to Senate inquiries and the development of policy and issues papers," Ms Egleton explained.

Detailed role descriptions, as well as Expression of Interest Forms are available on the Work With Us page on FRRR's website. EOIs close 5pm AEDT on Friday 11 April 2025.

Note, these roles are voluntary, but FRRR aims to have a diversity in membership, so the Foundation will consider supporting successful applicants to address barriers to participation in these primarily virtual meetings.





RED DIRT CP PTY LTD

Automotive Repair Shop

Coober Pedy & Oodnadatta

Lot 66 Seventeen Mile Rd (Opposite Lion's Club)
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100085582637596>
PHONE: 0488007450 or FB Messenger



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

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

New Closing the Gap Data a Wakeup Call to Governments

The latest data release from the Productivity Commission on Closing the Gap has highlighted a disturbing trend of worsening conditions in key areas for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, amplifying the urgency for all governments to commit fully to the Closing the Gap agreement.

Catherine Liddle, CEO of SNAICC – National Voice of Our Children said the report paints a grim picture with critical targets in child protection and youth justice systems as well as suicide rates and children’s developmental readiness for school heading in the wrong direction.

“This should be a wake-up call to all governments. We need a renewed commitment to the Closing the Gap agreement, and we need it now,” Ms. Liddle said.

“The findings from the Productivity Commission show just how much work is left to do, and without substantial change, many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children will be left behind.”

Target 12, which aims to reduce the number of children in out-of-home care, has made no progress, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children remaining almost 11 times more likely to be placed in care than their non-Indigenous peers.

Target 11 (reducing the rate of youth in detention) has not seen improvement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people 26.1 times more likely to be in detention than their non-Indigenous peers.

“These are not the failings of our children, our families or our organisations.

“The Productivity Commission review of Closing the Gap released just over a year ago laid out clear recommendations for change. Government at the Federal and State levels have still not committed to the findings of this report. It’s just not good enough.

“It’s clear the ‘business as usual approach’ is not hitting the mark, and the need for community-led early intervention programs and family support services are not being met.

“We have calls from the Federal Opposition for a Royal Commission into child sexual abuse when emotional abuse and neglect are the primary type of harm for almost 80% of substantiated child protection notifications for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, while sexual abuse is the primary abuse type in 7% of substantiated notifications.

“Systems built for us, but without us, will never drive the change we have to see.”

"If we continue down this path, we will fail in our shared responsibility to protect and care for these children, and to give them the opportunity to succeed.

"The Closing the Gap agreement is not just a commitment on paper – it is a commitment to deliver real, lasting, generational change.

“SNAICC is calling for an urgent, comprehensive and bi-partisan response to these findings by Federal, State and Territory and local governments.

“Their commitments to improving life outcomes for our children cannot continue to just be words. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children deserve real action.”

GENERAL NEWS

RMIT University: Scientists call for targeted fibre diets to boost health

Australian food scientists have reclassified dietary fibres – beyond just soluble and insoluble – to better guide nutritional decisions and drive targeted health food products.

Dietary fibres in fruit, vegetables, beans and whole grains are some of the most important food components for human health. They help digestion, weight management, blood sugar control, heart health, cancer prevention and more.

But RMIT University food scientist Professor Raj Eri said consumer advice on how best to use them for these various benefits is sorely lacking. “Quite like how different medicines target different conditions, so too do different types of fibres,” he said.

“For example, apples and bananas are both rich in dietary fibre but the fibre in each works very differently. “Our research is helping to understand which type of fibres we should eat to help address certain ailments.”

A new model for more tailored diets: In a new study published in Food Research International, the RMIT University team propose a more nuanced fibre classification based on five key features: backbone structure, water-holding-capacity, structural charge, fibre matrix and fermentation rate.

Study lead author and RMIT PhD candidate Christo Opperman said by starting with the key active features of fibre, this ‘bottom-up approach’ more accurately described each fibre’s health impacts.

“For example, suppose you want to promote colonic health. In that case, you identify a fibre’s properties as defined by the bottom-up approach, which align with your desired outcome – in this case fermentation rate,” Opperman said.

“Applying this framework can assure consumers, dieticians, clinicians and food technologists that they are receiving their desired health effect, which previously was a vague guessing game.”

Opperman said the RMIT team have now taken 20 different types of fibres and studied how they interact specifically with microbiome in the gut. “Until now, these types of specific interactions have been understudied, but with this framework as a beginning, we are on the verge of a much more helpful and detailed understanding,” he said.

A global fibre gap: Eri said there was already strong interest among dieticians, clinicians and food technologists – and of course consumers – on how to better integrate fibre into diets.

“In the countries surveyed, including Europe and the USA, every single population had a deficiency of fibre,” Eri said.

“Considering fibre is one of the most important nutrients, this is extremely worrying.”

While recommended dietary fibre intake is 28–42 grams per day, Americans on average get only 12–14 grams per day and Europeans 18–24 grams per day.

Beyond soluble and insoluble: The current classification of dietary fibres has them grouped into soluble and insoluble fibres, which is based on whether they dissolve in water.

Insoluble fibres are seldom fermented in the large intestine and help keep us regular.

Soluble fibres are more readily fermented and can reduce cholesterol, glucose absorption and food craving. But it’s not always so straightforward. For example, often insoluble fibres can also rapidly ferment and reduce glucose absorption.

“Despite our evolving understanding of how central different types of fibre are to nurturing a healthy gut biome, our dietary fibre classifications remain simplistic between broad categories of soluble and insoluble types,” Eri said.

“This binary classification of soluble and insoluble insufficiently captures the diverse structures and complex mechanisms through which dietary fibres influence human physiology.” “Our framework is an essential step in addressing this gap,” he said.

The researchers are now planning to investigate how a specific type of fibre (based on their new classification) modulates the microbiota and how we can utilise such knowledge for specific health applications.

‘Beyond soluble and insoluble: A comprehensive framework for classifying dietary fibre’s health effects’ is published in Food Research International (DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodres.2025.115843>)

COOBER PEDY

DRIVE-IN THEATRE

A reminder of new gate prices

\$30 car (up to 7 occupants)

These prices are for walk ins or less than 2 people in a car

\$15 single adult

\$10 student/ concession

\$5 child

No walk ins under 15 unless accompanied by an adult

CONCLAVE

March Movie Line-up

8/3/2025

Widow Clicquot

15/3/2025

CAPTAIN AMERICA BRAVE NEW WORLD

22/3/2025

MUFASA THE LION KING

28/3/2025

FLIGHT RISK

29/3/2025

16 TONNE CROP of TOBACCO DESTROYED IN VICTORIA



Australian Taxation Office making a dint in Australia’s illicit tobacco trade thanks to ‘tobacco tip-off’

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO), with support from Victoria Police’s VIPER Taskforce and the Australian Border Force (ABF), has seized and destroyed over 16 tonnes of illicit tobacco, with an estimated excise value of nearly \$35 million.

Two search warrants were executed on Thursday 6 March at a property in Merrigum, Victoria. A search of the property revealed two illicit tobacco crops in excess of 13 acres, which is equivalent to almost 12 football fields in size.

ATO Assistant Commissioner Jade Hawkins commended the actions of those who initially alerted the ATO to the property.

‘Community tip-offs are one of our best sources of information as they provide us and our partner agencies with crucial information to assist in the fight against illicit tobacco.’

‘The significant outcomes of these raids are another positive step forward in the ongoing work to detect, disrupt and dismantle organised crime syndicates who use profits from illicit tobacco to fund other, more serious illegal activities,’ Ms Hawkins said.

ABF Acting Commander Tori Rosemond said it is estimated organised crime groups control 75 per cent of the illicit tobacco market in Australia and it can generate significant profits.

‘We are detecting and seizing massive quantities of illicit tobacco on a daily basis at the border, but this alone cannot stem the supply, which is why we work side-by-side our partners to stamp out these home-grown illicit operations,’ Acting Commander Rosemond said.

Victoria Police Detective Acting Superintendent Craig Darlow said, ‘we have made it clear that we will target anyone at any level across the state who is involved in the distribution and sale of illicit tobacco, and that involves regional Victoria.’

‘These seizures – and their potential value of almost \$35M in avoided excise – are significant,’

‘We are doing absolutely everything we can to target syndicate leaders, directors, facilitators and organisers responsible for this criminal offending to make involvement in illicit tobacco as unattractive a proposition as possible,’said Acting Superintendent Darlow.

Between 1 July 2018 and 30 June 2024, our Illicit Tobacco Team completed 90 operational activities. These included 19 ITTF (whole of government) operations, 31 ATO specific operations and 40 state law enforcement support operations.

- These operations resulted in:
- 627 acres of illicit tobacco crops located, seized and destroyed with a total weight of 3,746,240kg
 - 39,224 kg of loose-leaf tobacco located, seized and destroyed
 - 21,759,340 cigarettes located, seized and destroyed
 - total estimated equivalent tobacco duty foregone value of above \$723M

From July 2018 to January 2025 there have been 30 convictions by the ATO for illicit tobacco with sentences ranging up to 3 years imprisonment.

Every crop we seize and destroy, burns another hole in the illicit tobacco trade. We continue to disrupt the illicit tobacco trade by prosecuting those who are found to be domestically growing and manufacturing illicit tobacco.

This activity is a direct result of a tip-off from a community member to Victoria Police, who then passed it on to the ATO. If you suspect that illicit tobacco is being grown, manufactured, or sold in your community, you can confidentially report it to the ATO online at ato.gov.au/tipoff, or phone 1800 060 062.

Visit ato.gov.au/illicittobacco to learn more about the signs of tobacco plants and what to look out for in your community.

WHAT’S ON?

Cooper Pedy Magistrate Court

Malliotis Blvd. Cooper Pedy (08) 8672 5601



Cooper Pedy Sitting dates in MARCH 2025

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

Court attendees can check case lists here

<https://www.courts.sa.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/caselists/copcr.pdf>

<https://www.courts.sa.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/caselists/paucr.pdf>

Reforms: The verdict term ‘not guilty due to mental incompetence’ to be removed

The verdict term ‘not guilty due to mental incompetence’ will be removed and replaced as part of a move to better reflect both the experience of victims and the findings of the court.

There has been concern amongst victim advocates that the term ‘not guilty’ in this context is no longer appropriate as it can lead to distress and confusion in the community, and fails to adequately encapsulate the court’s findings.

Under reforms that have now passed State Parliament, the term will be replaced with a finding of ‘conduct proved, but not criminally responsible’ due to mental incompetence.

This amendment has been advocated for by victims that the Government has met with and the current and previous Commissioner for Victims’ Rights.

The Government will be working with the Courts Administration Authority and police to commence the reforms as soon as possible.

Attorney General Kyam Maher says, “While the term ‘not guilty due to mental incompetence’ may be technically accurate, it’s easy to misinterpret.”

“Victims of crime could feel as though their experiences are being downplayed with a verdict that the perpetrator was ‘not guilty’ of the offence, despite the agreed facts of them committing the act in question.”

“While this amendment will not result in any new laws or procedures, this change is a fairer and more accurate way to reflect victim sentiment and describe the court’s findings.”

Sarah Quick, Commissioner For Victims’ Rights said, “Victims have long expressed their distress and frustration with the terminology ‘not guilty due to mental incompetence.’ For them, this minimises the seriousness of the offence and their suffering and contributes to a sense of injustice.”

“This reform better reflects victims’ experiences and their need for recognition and validation whilst still acknowledging the defendant’s mental health needs.”

“Language is powerful and this change of terminology will contribute to a greater sense of justice for victims.”

Preventive Health SA GRANTS



to help **community + sporting organisations** buy Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)



To improve access, Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) will soon be mandatory in certain South Australian buildings and facilities.

To support not for profit community and sporting organisations with the purchase of AEDs, we're providing grants of \$1,000 per eligible location.

Applications are open now and close 30 April 2025.

Check your eligibility and apply via preventivehealth.sa.gov.au/AEDGrants

Before you apply... Eligibility

Funding is available for community and sporting organisations.

To be eligible, applying organisations must:

- be located in South Australia
- be a not-for-profit club, association or organisation that is sport or community related
- have an active Australian Business Number (ABN)
- have public liability insurance with a minimum of \$1 million per claim (proof of eligibility will be required by uploading a Certificate of Currency)
- not have received prior funding from the South Australian AED Grants Program for the buildings/facilities included in the application
- apply for buildings/facilities that do not currently have an AED.

Grants cannot be provided to:

- individuals, government organisations or for-profit businesses
- schools, tertiary institutions or education facilities
- clinics, health or aged care facilities
- long-term or permanent residential sites, including campsites.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS GRANT:

<https://www.preventivehealth.sa.gov.au/engage-with-us/grants-funding/south-australian-automated-external-defibrillator-aed-grants-program-2>



Triple Zero (000)

For emergencies or life threatening situations.



Police Assistance Line (131 444)

For non emergencies.



Crime Stoppers (1800 333 000)

To provide crime information. It can be anonymous.

GRANTS & WORKSHOPS

Regional Development Australia Far North

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

Are you interested in furthering your leadership skills this year, or know someone who is an up-and-coming leader in your community?

RDA Far North, in conjunction with Primary Industry and Regions of South Australia (PIRSA) is once again offering an exciting Leadership Development Program commencing in May 2025 for community leaders in the Far North.

Over a six-month period, participants will learn the fundamentals of Leadership and take their personal development and community leadership to a new level.

If this sounds like you or someone you may know, contact Renata Hackett on the below details for more information:

0453 853 950
lpn@rdafn.com.au

**Applications Close
Tuesday, 1st April 2025**



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 Blanus, Dean Kennelly, Sebastian Crisa, Mike Eakins, Steve Perkins,
Lachlan Blanchford, Shannon Blanchford, Bailey Stevens

Coober Pedy Opal Fields Golf Club Inc.

Coober Pedy SA 3723
Committee Elected for 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)2025

Chantelle Bamford Chairperson
Lyndal Price Deputy Chairperson
Tanya Lauder Secretary/Treasurer
Gemma Hoad- Committee member
Mitchell Hoad - Committee member
Clydine Carboni - Committee Member
Kaysy Clet de Leon-Committee member
Gary Herdegen (Council) Committee Member
http://www.cooberpedydrivein.org.au/documents.html

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

Committee Elected 19-12-2024
President - Corey Edwards
Secretary - Tara-Jane Smith
Treasurer – Emily Pennisi
Committee members
Catherine Bell,
Rachel Crothers,
David Hammermeister

Coober Pedy Country Fire Service

COMMITTEE
Captain: Interim Captain David Frost
2nd Lieutenant: Geoff Squires
3rd Lieutenant: Ann Gerschwitz
Senior Firefighter: Linda Buckeridge
Contact: David.Frost@sacfsvolunteer.org.au
https://www.facebook.com/groups/813853775367739

Coober Pedy Retail, Business & Tourism Assoc. Inc

Committee Elected for 2025
President: George Kountouris
Vice President: George Russell OAM
Treasurer: Nick Brellas
Secretary/Public Officer: Nicky Kountouris
Committee Members: Mim Ward,
Daniel Tsharke, Clarissa Bigelow
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/

Updated Local Service Provider Listings

C.P. Police Station
Malliotis Blvd. Coober Pedy
(08) 8672 5056; Assistance 131 444;
Emergency 000; Crime Stoppers 1800 555 677

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

Coober Pedy Medical Practice
Lot 89 McDougal Road
(08) 8678 9224

iCCnet SA (Remote Health Monitoring)
Level 1, Administration Building
1 Tonsley Boulevard, Tonsley SA 5042, Australia
Tel 7117 0600 (9am to 8pm seven days a week)
Email: HEALTHFMCiCCnetSA@sa.gov.au

Coober Pedy Area School
17/18 Paxton Rd. Coober Pedy
(08) 8672 5077

Umoona Tjutagku Health Service
Lot 8 Umoona Rd
(08) 8672 5255

Housing SA
Lot 334 Hutchison St (Opposite Bank)
PHONE: 131 299

Centrelink
LOT 715 Hutchison St. Coober Pedy
13 24 68

District Council of Coober Pedy
LOT 773 Hutchison St. Coober Pedy
(08) 8672 4600

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

Umoona Community Council Inc
Umoona Rd
(08) 8672 5246

MAP/Sobering Up Centre. Ph: 86723903
MAP BUS Tues to Sat. 4pm-12am.
Sobering Up Centre Tues - Sat 4pm - 8am

Umoona Tjitji Tjapu Tjuta Childcare Centre
Lot 315 Robins Blvd
(08) 8672 5644

Umoona Aged Care
Lot 89 Hospital Rd
(08) 8672 5605

National Indigenous Australians Ag. (NIAA)
17/18 Paxton Rd. Coober Pedy
(08) 8672 5077

Far North Health Advisory Council
C/- Coober Pedy Hospital
(08) 8672 5009

C.P, Community Correctional Centre:
Malliotis Blvd. Coober Pedy
(08) 8672 3091


Uniting Country SA
Paxton Rd
1300 067 777

TAFE SA
Adult education school
Hutchison St. Coober Pedy
(08) 8678 9000

Coober Pedy Magistrates Court
Malliotis Blvd. Coober Pedy
(08) 8672 5601


Child Abuse Report Line (CARL)
131478

Aboriginal Family Support Services
Lot 1991 Aylett Street, Coober Pedy
(08) 8672 3066



Cooper Pedy Shooter's Club

Established 1974



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

Starting Times 9:00 AM

Saturday — Pistols (Military)

8 March

15 March

22 March

29 March

5 April

DISCIPLINES INCLUDE:

♦ Air Rifle/ pistol

♦ IPSC

♦ ISSF

♦ Rifle Metallic Silhouette

♦ Combine Service

♦ Black Powder

♦ Service pistol

♦ Shotgun

♦ Steel Challenge

Cooper Pedy Shooter's Club supports:

♦ Darts

♦ Archery

Starting Time: 10:00 AM

Sundays Fly Shoot 100m Benchrest

9 March

16 March

23 March

30 March

6 April

MEMBERSHIP Renewal Now Due 2024
Single Membership \$ 100.00
Couple Membership \$150.00
Family Membership \$ 200.00
Affiliate Membership \$20.00
SSAA MEMBERSHIP DUE NOW
Sign-up online
<https://ssaasa.org.au>.... Or at the club

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

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