

FREE



Cooper Pedy

REGIONAL TIMES

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Friday 2 May, 2025

HONOURING OUR COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS AT COOPER PEDY OPAL FIELDS

Earlier this year former Cooper Pedy opal miner and businessman Steve Koncz, now living interstate, contacted the Cooper Pedy Community Alliance Committee offering support that might help the Alliance's efforts to assist local residents struggling with the depleting effects of ongoing Administration.

Steve offered to provide a set of Pearl Opals for the Committee to raffle and raise funds to activate some 'worthy projects that would help raise the spirits of the community under the current circumstances.

The committee met to discuss the offer, and decided that community appreciation awards for individuals that were chosen by the actual community themselves might help bring some spirit back into the town.

A secondary need was discussed, that due to the elevated level of home invasions that we supply older residents with personal alarms. While it is not a total fix for the growing problem, it would provide a measure of comfort to many vulnerable folk.



Pictured above is Pearl Opal winner Nicko Farantouris, receiving his prize from Community Alliance Chairperson John Di Donna

The raffle was drawn on Saturday 26th April at the Italian Club. In this raffle there were two winners.

First prize went to Nicko Farantouris. Second prize went to Con Christopoulos. The tickets were drawn by Jordan Pantelis.

We thank everyone who bought raffle tickets for these worthy causes, and we will continue to publish ongoing news about the recipients of the Community Champion Awards.

There will be another raffle announced soon with further opportunity to win a Pearl Opal

The first Community Champion Award was presented to Frank Pennisi, opal mining veteran on Saturday 26th April at the Italian Club.

Frank and Niki Pennisi came to Cooper Pedy in the early 70's. Frank immediately joined the Cooper Pedy Miners and Progress Association that had the responsibility for the upkeep of the town, with proceeds from the Drive-In and an annual \$60K grant as their only income. The rest was provided by volunteer labour.

Frank would later be sworn in as a councillor on Cooper Pedy's first Council.

The DCCP was duly established with the first election held in January 1987. The move into Local Council status had followed a formal request to the Minister of Local Government to investigate the provision of local government in Cooper Pedy, particularly after the population grew to over 3,000 and reliance on the Cooper Pedy Progress and Miners Association increased.

After the original Miners and Progress Association was dissolved and replaced by local council, the Cooper Pedy opal miners formed a new Miners Association in late 1987. Frank served as a President for many years and continued on as the Public Officer going forward.

If anyone understands priorities, commitment and governance it's Frank Pennisi and other hardy men and women from the era of Cooper Pedy's Progress days.



Frank and Niki Pennisi were also both founding members of the Opal Inn Social Club that put on a generous Christmas party for the children of opal miners each year.

The Social Club began in 1980. In 2010, and after 30 years the Pennisi's retired from the committee. It was with regret that the Social Club said farewell to Niki and Frank, and remarked, "It is hard to believe that the Opal Inn Christmas Party has just celebrated it's 30th 'birthday'."

"Thank you for a job well done. Your continued support and hard work will be missed by all."



Frank and Niki Pennisi with Frank's long overdue Community Champion Award. Congratulations Frank, and thank you for so many years of service to the township of Cooper Pedy and it's opal mining families. Frank's addressed the meeting saying in essence that the community MUST get back to basics!

CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE JORDAN PANTELIS

On Saturday 26th April, the Cooper Pedy Area School and the Cooper Pedy Community Alliance presented Certificates of Excellence to a number of students from CPAS that the teachers deemed were worthy recipients.

The first of those students is Jordan Pantelis who won his award for Growth and Resilience.

Jordan in Year 6 has demonstrated significant growth in social and emotional learning, consistently displaying resilience, kindness, and positivity within the classroom community.

He has continuously reflected on areas he needs to improve and has actively implemented changes to achieve these goals.

His dedication to improving his emotional literacy and genuine care for peers makes him an outstanding candidate for this recognition.



Congratulations to Jordan Pantelis who has worked diligently to develop qualities that will improve his journey forward, and his relationships with those around him.

Jordan is a second generation Cooper Pedy Area School student, with both his mother, Lia and father Yanni, as well as uncles, all being students at CPAS.

We look forward to following Jordan's progress as he steps further into the world of education and experiences, and enters year 7 (High School) in 2026

SERVING THE OPAL CAPITAL OF THE WORLD SINCE 1982

ABOUT US

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

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

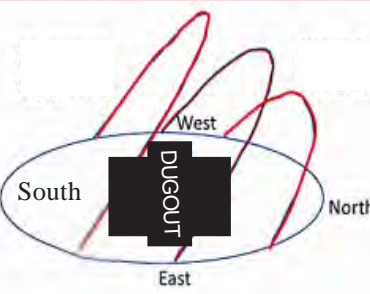
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7 DAYS WEATHER at COOBER PEDY Oodnadatta Tarcoola Andamooka Roxby Downs

	FRI May 2	SAT May 3	SUN May 4	MON May 5	TUE May 6	WED May 7						
Summary	Sunny	Cloud increasing	Mostly sunny	Sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny						
Maximum	24°C	25°C	27°C	29°C	28°C	26°C						
Minimum	10°C	10°C	12°C	13°C	13°C	13°C						
Chance of Rain Likely Amount	5% < 1mm	5% < 1mm	5% < 1mm	5% < 1mm	5% < 1mm	5% < 1mm						
UV Index	High	High	High	High	High	Moderate						
Frost Risk	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil						
	9am 3pm	9am 3pm	9am 3pm	9am 3pm	9am 3pm	9am 3pm						
Wind Speed	25km/h E	23km/h E	27km/h ENE	27km/h ENE	22km/h NE	20km/h NE	20km/h NNE	12km/h NNW	16km/h SSW	18km/h SSW	21km/h S	20km/h S



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

Local Scribes

Bi Monthly

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



Margaret Mackay
Editor

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.

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



Mike Gillam Coober Pedy/Alice Springs

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

*Spacious underground living

*Beautiful Opal Gemstones

*Over 40 Nationalities bonded by the OPAL Industry

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



Coober Pedy - The True Jewel of South Australia

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 09 May 2025

☐ Friday 23 May 2025

☐ Friday 06 June 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.

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Coober Pedy Regional Times

Friday 2 May 2025

**COOBER PEDY - OPAL
CAPITAL OF THE WORLD
SUPPLYING 80% OF THE
WORLD'S OPAL**



Known as the Opal Capital of the World, Coober Pedy is home to a large portion of the world's commercial opal supply.

Australian opal has been cited as accounting for 95–97% of the world's supply of precious opal, with the state of South Australia accounting for 80% of the world's supply. You can find numerous opal shops, mines, and museums showcasing the history and art of opal mining

The opal mining town itself has long held the title as Australia's last frontier, historically compared to America's "Wild West".

Coober Pedy's inhabitants have developed unique underground living conditions due to the extreme weather conditions. Underground living and working includes underground museums and churches.

The landscape around Coober Pedy is characterized by its vast, desert plains and colourful mesa-top mountains, creating a stunning and other-worldly scenery. The area is often described as "moon-like" due to its stark, desert terrain.

The opal mining industry is the major economic driver for Coober Pedy. With the South Australian State Government's Opal Fields Program based there, it is a key area for opal mining regulation, ensuring compliance with mining law.

Mining methods have evolved over time, with earlier methods relying on shaft sinking and tunnelling, and later mechanisation becoming more common. Mechanised mining allows for faster and less dangerous shaft digging, tunneling, and tailings removal, as seen in the development of the Umoona Opal Mine & Museum.



From time to time a movie script will require a film location in the Australian desert to accommodate certain scenes. Some of the movies filmed in or around Coober Pedy include:

- Fire in the Stone released 1984
- Where the Green Ants Dream released 1984
- Ground Zero - released 1984
- Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome - released 1985
- Salute of the Jugger - released 1989
- Until the End of the World - released 1991
- Stark - released 1993
- Priscilla Queen of the Desert - released 1994
- Siam Sunset- released 1999
- The Drovers Boy - never released
- Pitch Black - released 2000
- Red Planet - released 2000
- Kangaroo Jack - released 2003
- Opal Dream - released 2006
- SFV1 The Osiris Child - released 2017

The Coober Pedy Opal Fields have numerous abandoned mine shafts, requiring caution and awareness of the risks, especially when walking in the area.

"Noodling" (a form of recreational prospecting) is allowed in designated areas, but requires obtaining a precious stones prospecting permit for using tools, machinery, or explosives.

Active Claims as at the 29/04/2025

Andamooka 163; Coober Pedy 461;



Mintabie 9; Stuart Creek 1



**Reviewing South
Australia's Mining Act**

We are seeking your feedback on a range of potential improvements to the Mining Act 1971.

A modern, fit-for-purpose regulatory system supports a growing mining industry that respects our communities and environment, while delivering economic opportunities for the benefit of all South Australians.

South Australia's Mining Act 1971 provides the legal framework for the exploration and development of South Australia's mineral resources.

The Department for Energy and Mining monitors the Act's effectiveness to ensure the legislation remains fit-for-purpose. Informed by industry and community feedback, regulatory approaches and developments in other jurisdictions, the department has identified further potential enhancements to the regulatory framework.

We are seeking feedback on a range of potential options to update the Mining Act's regulatory framework, with a focus on the following areas:

- mineral exploration tenure
- how existing native title rights and interests are reflected in the Mining Act
- private mine regulation
- technical and operational amendments.

We want to hear from you: The Department for Energy and Mining is seeking your thoughts on potential enhancements, particularly in the areas mentioned above.

This is your opportunity to help shape a modern Mining Act that meets today's industry, environmental and community needs.

Find out more: Read the proposed Mining Act 1971 Issues Paper (PDF, 214.2 KB) (PDF) https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/1146687/Mining-Act-reviews-issues-paper.pdf

Read the current Mining Act 1971 <https://www.legislation.sa.gov.au/lz?path=/c/a/mining%20act%201971>

Have your say: You can provide your feedback by:
Taking the survey and responding to questions raised via the South Australian government YourSay (external site) web site
Emailing a submission to DEM.consultation@sa.gov.au
Posting your written submission to:
Department for Energy and Mining
Mining Act Reforms
GPO Box 680, Adelaide, South Australia 5001

Closing date for submissions: Submissions will close on 28 May 2025.
Next steps: All feedback will be considered. A consultation report will be published on this website, and a recommendation made to the Minister for Energy and Mining on potential reforms.



THE 36th COOPER PEDY OPAL FESTIVAL



13th - 15th June, 2025

The Cooper Pedy Opal Festival is proudly supported by these major Sponsors:



The Mparntwe band



JOIN US for the biggest bush dance Cooper Pedy has ever seen at this year's Cooper Pedy Opal Festival, 13 - 15 June 2025.

The Mparntwe band hails from Alice Springs, born from a locally funded string band initiative run by Gleny Rae.

From performances at the Desert Festival and Top Half Folk Festival, nationally renowned musician Gleny Rae (she's got herself a golden guitar award) and her band of merry musicians, will call and instruct us in the beautiful, infectious chaos of a bush dance.

This is a chance for people of all ages, backgrounds and experience levels to dust off their dancing shoes and come together for some foot-stomping fun!!! It's going to be a hoot!!

Stall holder application forms:

<https://opalfestival.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Stall-Holder-Registration-2025.pdf>

Grand Parade application forms:

<https://opalfestival.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Grand-Parade-Registration-Form-2025.pdf>

COOBER PEDY'S DRIVE-IN

The Coober Pedy Drive-in has a long and interesting history, dating back to its construction in 1965 by the Coober Pedy Progress and Miners Association.

Initially, it served as a central gathering place for the town's diverse community, providing entertainment and a place to share news.

The drive-in even hosted screenings in multiple languages, reflecting the town's multicultural heritage.

While the arrival of television in 1980 led to a decrease in its popularity, the drive-in continued to operate sporadically before eventually closing in 1995.

It was briefly reopened by a private operator before returning to volunteer hands in 2000.

Currently, the Coober Pedy Drive-in is the last surviving drive-in in South Australia.

Here's a more detailed look at its history:

1965: The drive-in was built by the Coober Pedy Progress and Miners Association, funded by donations and a raffle.

1969: The drive-in was upgraded.

1980: Television arrived in Coober Pedy, impacting the drive-in's entertainment monopoly.

1984: The drive-in closed down, except for occasional special screenings.

1995: The drive-in closed permanently. Briefly reopened by a private operator.

2000: The drive-in was returned to volunteer hands.

2015: The drive-in digitized its projectors, replacing the 35mm film projectors.

2022: The Mainline Drive-in at Gepps Cross closed, leaving Coober Pedy's as the last drive-in in South Australia.

2023: The drive-in was forced to close due to storm damage.

2025: The drive-in was repaired and reopened.

Before the drive-in was built in 1965, the only regular gathering point for people to meet and greet was at the store on truck day.

Films had been shown previously in the town hall using projectors mounted on a platform hung from the rafters. Before that there had been showings of cartoons projected on the wall of Brewster's Store.

The Drive-In provided a multicultural venue for people to regularly get together to share news, gossip and entertainment.

Families used to come when the gates opened prepared to have a picnic meal before the films started.

Opal miners came in their work utes, initially with gelignite among their other daily mining tools. As beer drinking was allowed, the operators decided it would be prudent to ban explosives. (Sue Britt)

Critique of concept plans that fail to resonate with the sense of place that is Coober Pedy

Mike Gillam



The Progress and Miners Association built the Drive-in with money raised from donations and the raffle of a new Holden ute. Volunteer labour did the construction work. The original projection room was a two-storey corrugated iron shed with the two Tokiwa projectors up top and a canteen below.

I write because of my deep concern about plans to unilaterally corporatise/re-brand the existing Coober Pedy Drive-in with no genuine broad based community engagement and therefore no informed brief to provide direction to designers.

Apparently those who provided the design are simply trusted from afar to imagine and plan something but the resulting 'atmospheric' of concept drawings suggests they would rather be sipping cocktails at a resort than watching films in the desert. This approach virtually guarantees a result that will be neither appropriate or an example of design excellence by Coober Pedy standards.

Apparently a free-lance consultant secured seed funding from BHP to commission these spurious concept plans for an important heritage site, unrivalled across inland Australia.

For pity's sake, can we please respect the heritage status of this facility, invest more thoughtfully in originality and get it right. It's absolutely possible to combine ancillary and contemporary facilities without compromising the history of the existing drive-in theatre.

A multi-purpose upgrade that captures the essence of this remarkable community, its history, skills and sense of style is desirable and achievable.

The arrogant process of commissioning a radical re-design of this highly significant site, and announcing its proposed endorsement by the current de facto administration while seeking community opinion 'in passing' should be strenuously resisted.

It beggars belief that the free-ranging consultant has hijacked one of this community's most cherished public assets and sought to ram through a cliched interpretation of outdoor recreation.

The resulting generic design conveys a resort/boutique winery experience and in the process overwhelms a local icon. Increasingly tourists are searching out local and regional character, pointedly rejecting 'centres' and attractions overtly designed for them.

Certainly this design has been inspired by another climatic region and applied to Coober Pedy, it is utterly alien. The fabulous night sky in the top half of the artist's impression captures something of value but the built and landscaping structures, misguided and imposed on this location are without any redeeming features.

There are vastly better ways to engage the community and achieve design excellence, sophistication and utility, while balancing construction costs and practical low maintenance features at the iconic Coober Pedy Drive-in theatre.

I urge the funding partners at BHP to learn from this tainted process and agree to a genuine restart of this project that begins with the local community, seeking to optimise design outcomes that resonate convincingly with this unique location. A modest design competition to provide initial concept drawings and schematics, open to regional designers and architects is not without precedent.

Mike Gillam is an essayist and photographer based in Alice Springs and regularly posts his work online at www.alicespringsnews.com.au and is also an occasional contributor to the Coober Pedy Times. Over the past 30 years Mike Gillam and Maria Giacon developed a visual arts hub in Alice Springs, recognised as one of regional Australia's most successful and significant.

Mike and Maria are also Coober Pedy ratepayers. Of some relevance, Mike won a 2011 green dot award for "Revealing the Spirit of Parsons Street", a document used to inform and guide future design and artistic commissions in this important public space.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HAa9qlcLeVE>

Do you know how to make your vote count?

Federal election, Saturday 3 May 2025

It's important that you understand how to vote correctly.

On election day you need to complete two ballot papers:

- a green one for the House of Representatives
- a large white one for the Senate.

On the green ballot paper you are voting for a representative of your local area or electorate in the House of Representatives.

On the white ballot paper you are voting for representatives of your state or territory in the Senate.

Don't worry if you make a mistake.
Just ask for another ballot paper and start again.

Green ballot paper – number **every** box in the order of your choice



House of Representatives
Ballot Paper



State
Electoral Division of Division Name

Number the boxes from 1 to 8 in the order of your choice

2

SURNAME, Given Names
INDEPENDENT



3

SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY



7

SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY



8

SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY



1

SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY

5

SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY



6

SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY



4


SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY

Remember... number **every** box to make your vote count


SAMPLE

Sample ballot paper

White ballot paper – you can choose to vote either above or below the line



Senate Ballot Paper
State – Election of 6 Senators




You may vote in one of two ways

Either

Above the line

By numbering at least 6 of these boxes in the order of your choice (with number 1 as your first choice)


A



5

PARTY


B



2

PARTY


C



1


PARTY

D



PARTY


E



3

PARTY

F



6

PARTY

G


4

Or

Below the line

By numbering at least 12 of these boxes in the order of your choice (with number 1 as your first choice)


PARTY



SURNAME
Given Names
PARTY

1

SURNAME
Given Names
PARTY



SURNAME
Given Names
PARTY


PARTY

8


SURNAME
Given Names
PARTY

5

SURNAME
Given Names
PARTY




SURNAME
Given Names
PARTY



SURNAME
Given Names
PARTY

PARTY



SURNAME
Given Names
PARTY

3

SURNAME
Given Names
PARTY


2

SURNAME
Given Names
PARTY

PARTY

6

SURNAME
Given Names
PARTY



SURNAME
Given Names
PARTY

12

SURNAME
Given Names
PARTY

PARTY


10

SURNAME
Given Names
PARTY

9

SURNAME
Given Names
PARTY


PARTY



SURNAME
Given Names
PARTY

11

SURNAME
Given Names
PARTY




SURNAME
Given Names
PARTY

UNGROUPED

4


SURNAME
Given Names
INDEPENDENT



SURNAME
Given Names
INDEPENDENT

7

SURNAME
Given Names
INDEPENDENT



SURNAME
Given Names
INDEPENDENT

SAMPLE

Sample ballot paper

EITHER

Vote above the line
Number **at least 6** boxes
for parties or groups,
in the order of your choice.

OR

Vote below the line
Number **at least 12** boxes
for individual candidates,
in the order of your choice.

Your vote will help shape Australia. Practise voting at aec.gov.au

To learn more

aec.gov.au 13 23 26



Authorised by the Electoral Commissioner, 10 Mort Street, Canberra

2025 GEM TRADE SHOW AT COOBER PEDY

The 19th Coober Pedy Gem Trade Show was held over the Easter long weekend at the Croatian Club where miners and traders showcased their opal and other gemstones and wares to potential buyers.

The GTS has been a key event for the opal trade locally, nationally as well as inter-nationally drawing buyers and exhibitors from all sectors since the inaugural Gem Trade Show was held at Coober Pedy in 2007 at the Greek Club..

The show continues to provide a platform for opal miners and traders to connect with buyers, including jewelers, wholesalers, and collectors

The GTS aims to contribute to the local economy by attracting visitors and fostering trade in the opal and gem industry, with the primary focus is on showcasing high quality opals and other gemstones produced in the Coober Pedy region, known as the "Opal Capital of the World".



Astrid and Heath Strawbridge with Trevor and Shona Lawrence at the GTS



Elizabeth Lloyd Kecskameti [Desert Jewells] lived in Coober Pedy during the 80's and loves coming back to town



Corey Edwards of Edwards Opal chatting with Laz Katona during a quiet moment at the GTS

Right: The Pantelis family and friends take a wander around the Gem Trade Show on Sunday. Stopping to chat with Milo from Regent Opal in Adelaide.

MORE PHOTOS NEXT TIME



Local resident Karen Ingram considering the purchase of a black light torch from Leon Stafford



Debbie and Laz Katona at the Gem Trade Show with Kamal Kant from Mansi Gems (India)



Opal buyer Tony Wong with Ashley Gerschwitz



Dale Price Opals stand at the Gem Trade Show



LAKE EYRE FILLING UP



Lake Eyre is beginning to fill up and will transform into a vast inland sea within the next month

One of the most significant floods on record has pushed the floodwater to Lake Eyre via the Warburton Creek much earlier than initially anticipated. The next system to contribute to the lake's filling is the Cooper Creek, which recently caused unprecedented flooding in Innamincka.

The floodwaters from Cooper Creek are still making their way to Lake Eyre, the largest salt lake in Australia and additionally one of the world's largest.

Officially known as Kati Thanda–Lake Eyre, is located in the Far North region of South Australia, 265 km North East of Coober Pedy. The lake covers an area of up to 9,500 km2 (3,668 sq mi). When the lake is full, it has the same salinity as seawater.

Lake Eyre is normally dry; it fills completely only an average of twice in a century, but partial, minor fillings happen much more often. When completely filled (as in 1950, 1974, and 1984), the lake takes about two years to dry up again.

Phil van Wegen of ARID AIR - Outback Air Tours said that Lake Eyre is certainly looking to get a well above average fill, which is very exciting for the region.

"There is huge interest from the public, in the Lake Eyre filling. We have had lots of inquiries & bookings for flights over the lake and the flood plains. I'm sure the whole region is going to benefit out of this event as it has tourists travelling from all over Australia to witness this," said Phil.

Chair of the Coober Pedy Retail, Business & Tourism Association (CPRBTA) George Kountouris said, "The rare occurrence of water in Lake Eyre means the desert transforms into a different space. Life is reignited for dormant seeds, and birdlife meets for a rare festival."

"Coober Pedy is the central point of a vast wilderness with the lake as its central jewel, presenting another facet of the Outback. Lake Eyre brings a different form of visitor; a more nature loving, adventurous traveler."

"To witness this miracle of nature unfold, many will trek and follow the Lake's progress and its eventual decline."

"Although many outback areas are celebrating the filling of the lake there are some like Innamincka will be counting their losses after floods devastate their homes and livelihoods. It's as if the Lake is a metaphor for life and renewal," said, Mr. Kountouris.

The buffel grass time-bomb: an election update.

Centralia's buffel grass time-bomb mirrors the experience of desert regions in the United States. The rise of environmentalism in Arizona shares remarkable similarities with semi-arid Australia while Queensland's obsession with buffel fed beef seems more politically aligned with Texas and possibly Mexico.

Threatening the entire Lake Eyre Basin, buffel grass is now rampant in Coober Pedy and both the SA and federal Governments are missing in action.

"After World War II, the Western Australian Department of Agriculture deliberately planted buffel grass, in Queensland the first plantings occurred in 1926 in Cloncurry, trials occurred in NSW in the 1920's.... Since the 1950's, buffel grass has been sown at scale across northern Australia..." from the ALEC position paper Firestorm.

To say that scientists and politicians failed to consider the risks of exotic grasses wreaking havoc on biodiversity would be a massive understatement.

Weed Legislation: In much the same way as the vulnerability of old growth river red gums have focussed attention on the buffel grass invasion in Centralia, the emblematic Saguaro cactus has galvanised public support for action on this botanical 'plague' in the US state of Arizona.

The early 2000s were la Nina years in central Australia and buffel expanded rapidly igniting greater public concern. Finally, in 2014 the Federal Government's Threatened Species Scientific Commission recommended all states and territories declare buffel grass a weed and act to mitigate the buffel grass threat to 70% of the Australian continent.

In 2015, South Australia acted promptly on this deeply considered advice and all other states ignored it. Following a further decade of prevarication, a public revolt finally forced the Northern Territory Government to act in 2024 and buffel grass was declared a weed.

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

It's interesting to note that greater voting density in Darwin, the NT Capital, enabled citizens to achieve a WoNS declaration for gamba grass (another CSIRO release) in 2012!

Research from the centre: Long-term resident of Alice Springs and eminent arid zone ecologist Associate Professor Christine Schlesinger of Charles Darwin University, began researching the ecological impacts of buffel grass following large rains in 2000. She has gone on to publish more than ten scientific papers on the impacts of buffel grass. "

...Buffel grass is a serious invader of desert ecosystems worldwide. It promotes more frequent and intense fire episodes, potentially threatening the persistence of large trees...Their widespread decline, globally and in Australia, has serious implications for biodiversity and ecosystem integrity..."

In September 2023 buffel grass made headlines around the world. "Invasive buffel grass that helped fuel deadly Maui fires [is] also threatening Australia..."

"...The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) has recognised buffel grass's potential to completely take over arid ecosystems, forcing out native plant and animal species..."



The buffel grass invasion in outback towns like Coober Pedy has not improved since being legislated as a declared weed in 2015. Despite heavy annual levies from the Landscape board, residents paying the levy must remove buffel grass and other pest species at their own expense. Local councils are given the responsibility of removing buffel grass in public areas, but it is not enforced.



"A key ingredient in the deadly Maui fires — unmanaged invasive grasses, like buffel grass — is also spreading throughout vast areas of Australia, prompting a warning about the increased risk to people, houses and biodiversity on this side of the globe.... In August 2023, the spread of non-native grasses in Hawaii was put under the microscope, when the island of Maui ignited in one of the deadliest fires in US history. The death toll stands at 97 people, with 31 still missing..."

Industry funding misdirected: The natural environment is being destroyed by political indifference, while a buffel promoting industry receives generous federal funds to prop up this discredited grazing status quo. The federal Government matches, on a dollar for dollar basis, funds raised through producer levies etc. "...Total funding for the program is \$157 million over eight years. All projects will be completed by June 2023..."

Unfortunately this funding was not used to address the concerns of landowners who might oppose reliance on buffel grass and wish to control this weed and/or spread their risks to foster and manage native pastures in total or part.

An industry that is facing inevitable pasture run-down should be looking to the future instead of harking back to beef production that came at such an unconscionable cost to the natural environment.

Industry jingoism side-steps science: On 11 March 2025, Lloyd Hick, AgForce Cattle Board President made the following alarmist claims. "...The push to list it as a Weed of National Significance (WoNS) would have severe consequences for Queensland's beef industry and broader agriculture. If listed, buffel could face legislative restrictions, removal requirements, and even biological control research aimed at eradicating it..."

At a Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association conference in Darwin earlier this year, "President Garry Edwards chimed in... campaigns by environmental groups...ignored the vital contribution the grass had made to the economic viability and sustainable profitability of regional and rural Australia..." "In fact, I think we should nominate buffel grass for an Order of Australia medal for its sustainable long-term enhancement and efforts in contributing the profitability of regional Australia," he said, sparking applause and cheers from the conference audience."

"...As a multi-billion-dollar industry with 52,000 plus levy payers and supporting 430,000 jobs the beef cattle sector was the largest single economic contributor of Australian primary industry outside mining...It's about time we understood that we are the 50,000-pound gorilla in the room that just hasn't been woken up..."

Note: In 2021-2, Agriculture (pastoralism, forestry, fishery and horticulture) contributed \$805M, currently employs less than 2,000 people and contributes 2.8 % to the NT GSP. Pastoralism occupies approximately 54 % of the country.

Discussion: In the rangelands of inland Australia, pastoralism was profitable before buffel and much more so after a massive programme of drilling to provide artesian water flows for livestock. It's nonsense to suggest the entire industry is not viable without it and plenty of evidence to suggest that pasture rundown is occurring and will likely prove disastrous in buffel grass monocultures of the future.

Clearly fear mongering by industry lobbyists is disingenuous. While I've had honest conversations with pastoralists who have serious misgivings about the buffel invasion, they are shy about going on the record. Primary industries are not always open to diverse views. I believe this is a huge mistake and risks reputational damage to so many primary producers and stake-holders who do rely on the empathy and understanding of the nation in times of great hardship such as drought, flood or tariffs.

Readers may well ask why the federal Government failed to act on expert advice delivered by the Threatened Species Scientific Commission in 2014 and why all levels of Government continued to do nothing from 2021 when "ecosystem collapse" was finally reported by a federal agency? Truly, this is one of the environmental scandals of the century.

\$1.7M IN ILLEGAL TOBACCO , VAPES & CASH INTERCEPTED ENROUTE TO THE FAR NORTH FOLLOWING A TRUCK STOP AT PORT AUGUSTA

30 Apr 2025 4:01pm. Police have seized more than \$1.7 million worth of vapes and illegal tobacco and more than \$80k cash following a truck stop on the states Far North last week.

About 4.30pm on Friday 25 April, police at Far North Local Service Area, Traffic Services Branch and Serious and Organised Crime Branch stopped a refrigerated truck at Port Augusta at a drug transit route operation at Port Augusta.

Police spoke with the occupants of the truck and searched the truck where they located and seized in excess of \$1.74 million in vapes, \$26,000 in loose tobacco and \$80,100 cash.

The seizure resulted in the arrest of a 32-year-old man and a 62-year-old man both from New South Wales, they were charged with unlawful possession and possession of tobacco products for sale. Both men appeared in Port Augusta Magistrates court on 28 April where they were remanded in custody to next appear in court on 1 July.

The refrigerated truck has been seized and will be the subject of confiscations proceedings.

Operation Eclipse have taken carriage of the investigation which is ongoing.

Operation Eclipse Commander, Detective Chief Inspector Brett Featherby said, "The seizure demonstrates the risk to syndicates should they seek to transport illicit tobacco through South Australia to other states."

"Organised crime syndicates transporting illicit tobacco through transit routes in regional areas will be subject to a whole of SAPOL response to disrupt their criminal activity and financial operations.

SAPOL will pursue criminal charges when sufficient evidence exists and that includes those who are supporting and enabling that activity and take every opportunity to enforce the full extent of the confiscations legislation to seize assets of those involved," he said.



Operation Eclipse has so far resulted in 35 arrests for offences including blackmail, possess tobacco products for sale, arson, money laundering and serious criminal trespass.

There have been 184 premises searched – 47 residential, 123 businesses and 14 storage facilities – in excess of \$2.2 million in cash, three firearms and \$17.97 million in tobacco products.

Significantly, there have been 394 calls to Crime Stoppers since 2 October that have resulted in information being provided to police.

Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Andrea Michaels MP said, "This is a significant win in our fight against illicit tobacco and vapes with the biggest seizure of illegal vapes to date.

"As a result, we now have 35,000 less vapes headed to illegal tobacco stores to damage people's health and line the coffers of criminals.

"The Malinauskas Government will not tolerate the sale of illicit tobacco and vapes in our community.

"No matter where you are operating in South Australia, if you are selling or importing illicit tobacco and vapes, you will be caught and subject to some of the toughest penalties in Australia," she said.

Operation Eclipse has so far resulted in 35 arrests for offences including blackmail, possess tobacco products for sale, arson, money laundering and serious criminal trespass.

There have been 184 premises searched – 47 residential, 123 businesses and 14 storage facilities – in excess of \$2.2 million in cash, three firearms and \$17.97 million in tobacco products.

Anyone with any information on criminal activities surrounding the sale of illicit tobacco is urged to call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or visit crimstopperssa.com.au - You can remain anonymous.

Independent Candidate for Grey Anita Kuss visits Coober Pedy

Independent candidate for Grey Anita Kuss visited Coober Pedy, 14th April and met with locals at the RSL where she shared her views and answered questions on a variety of concerns including banking, child care, regional roads and the lack of reliable maintenance, the potential for Federal intervention on Coober Pedy's current administration plight.

Residents were interested to know about "Anita" who explained, "I am very proudly 'from the region and for the region'. I won't be told how to vote by party bosses. I'll have one job: fighting for what's fair and what's good for our region.

I grew up on our small family farm near Clare before heading off to Roseworthy College for uni. I've spent most of my life working in Grey, from Ceduna and Wudinna, Crystal Brook and the Upper Spencer Gulf – this region is home.

What we all know in this region is that for too long, decisions about our future have been made by people who don't live here, and that needs to change.

There are so many fantastic opportunities for growth right across our electorate, but they need to be led with and for locals – so they suit our needs, our goals, our values.

Right now, we often see big companies or major projects come to town, fly in a workforce from somewhere else, throw some money at a few local activities, and think that's enough. We deserve better than that. We have to get it right.

"That's why I'm running as an Independent. I won't be told how to vote by party bosses. I'll have one job: fighting for what's fair and what's good for our region."



Anita Kuss Independent Candidate for Grey is introduced at RSL by Terry Brennan-Kuss



Anita Kuss Q & A at Coober Pedy



Anita Kuss at the Coober Pedy RSL with community



Coober Pedy Community Alliance members John, Teena and George, meet with Anita Kuss



More Q & A with Anita Kuss

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

In 2025, the Far North and Flinders regions of South Australia will host a variety of events,
including the Annual Coober Pedy Gem Trade Show in April's Easter Long Weekend,
a gymkhana/motokhana in Marree,

A fat tire festival in Melrose, the Flying Doctor Race Day in Port Augusta, and the Great Kanku-
Breakaways Bolt, all taking place in June.

Additionally, there will be the Coober Pedy Opal Festival, the Andamooka Opal Classic, and the
Farmer's & Graziers Squatters Cup. Further events include the Birdsville Campdraft, Rodeo,
Bronco Branding, and the Pichi Richi Marathon.
There will also be a Roxby Downs Open Championships.

MAY - JUNE 2025

Roxby Downs World Food & Music Festival

Saturday 3rd May 2025

Roxby Downs

Oodnadatta Races and Gymkhana

Saturday 10th May 2025

Oodnadatta Sports Club

Mother's Day Races

Sunday 11th May 2025

Port Augusta Racing Club, Port Augusta

Tradies Race Day

Friday 23rd June 2025

Port Augusta Racing Club, Port Augusta

Melrose Running Festival

Saturday 24th May 2025

Melrose

Hawker Races

Saturday 31st May 2025

Hawker Racing Club, Hawker

Opal Evolution Andamooka Arts Festival

Date: TBA

Andamooka Postcode 5730

Photographic Exhibition

Date: TBA

Town Hall, Blinman

Ultra Runners SA Hubert 100

Date: TBA

Wilpena Pound

Marree Gymkhana & Motokhana

Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th June 2025

Marree Sports Club, Marree

Melrose Fat Tyre Festival

Friday 6th - Monday 9th June 2025

Melrose

Flying Doctor Race Day

Sunday 8th June 2025

Port Augusta Racing Club, Port Augusta

The Great Kanku-Breakaways Bolt

Sunday 8th June 2025

Kanku-Breakaways Conservation Park

Coober Pedy Opal Festival

Friday 13th - Sunday 15th June 2025

Coober Pedy

Andamooka Opal Classic

Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th June 2025

Andamooka Shooting Range, Andamooka

Farmer's & Graziers Squatters Cup

Sunday 22nd June 2025

Port Augusta Racing Club, Port Augusta

**Birdsville Campdraft, Rodeo, Bronco
Branding, Horse & Motorbike Gymkhana**

Friday 27th - Sunday 29th June 2025

Birdsville

Pichi Richi Marathon

Sunday 29th June 2025

Commencing in Port August and finishing in
Quorn

Roxby Downs Open Championships

Date: TBA

Roxby Downs Golf Club, Roxby Downs

**FAR NORTH OF SA INCLUDING
THE SA OPAL FIELDS & FLINDERS RANGES**



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"

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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.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION - DRIVE-IN



District Council of Coober Pedy

The District Council of Coober Pedy invites you to
"Have Your Say" on draft Master Plans for the re-development of the
Coober Pedy Drive-In

Community engagement commences on Thursday 24 April 2025 and closes at 5pm on
Friday 16 May 2025.

The Draft Master Plans and Community Engagement documents are available on
Council's website or can be viewed at Council's Customer Service Centre.

Written submissions which must be received by 5.00pm on 16 May 2025

and can be made by:
Completing the online form at Council's Website
Emailing dccp@cpccouncil.sa.gov.au;
Mail to Attn: Chief Executive Officer

POSITION VACANT

MAKING A
DIFFERENCE SO
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
THRIVES



ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY
CORRECTIONS OFFICER

Department for Correctional Services
Coober Pedy Community Correctional
Centre

Temporary / Up to 12 months

Vac No: 667331

\$85,790 - \$95,413 pa (AS05)

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

Applications close: 11pm,
Saturday 11 May 2025

IWORKFOR.SA.gov.au



Ag Town of the Year

Nominations open
for SA's 2025 Ag
Town of the Year

Nominations have opened for the
2025 Agricultural Town of the Year
Award, the prestigious award that
recognises South Australian towns that
excel in agricultural practices and are
also great places to live and work.

Now in its seventh year, the Ag Town of the Year
Award highlights the importance of developing
and maintaining a strong and vibrant agricultural
sector in South Australia, by recognising towns
embracing their farming culture and displaying
the foresight, resilience and spirit unique to our
rural and regional communities.

The winning town will receive town entrance
signage recognising their achievement, a
certificate and trophy presented by the Minister
for Primary Industries and Regional
Development, a community event and sign
unveiling to celebrate the town's achievement,
and a double-page feature in SALIFE magazine.

Past winners of the award are Penola in 2024,
Wudinna in 2023, Mypolonga in 2022, Kimba in
2021, Pinnaroo in 2020 and Cleve in 2019.

Nominations for the 2025 Ag Town of the
Year can be made at agtown.com.au until
they close on 21 May 2025.

Finalists for the Ag Town of Year are anticipated
to be announced in August, and the winner will be
announced at the South Australian Regional
Showcase Awards later this year.

The Agricultural Town of the Year Award is a
PIRSA initiative, delivered in partnership with
Solstice Media.

Clare Scriven MLC
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional
Development

Voting near Coober Pedy
Polling is open between 8am and 6pm



TAFE SA (Coober Pedy Campus)

Lot 1 Hutchison St, Coober Pedy

Roxby Downs Christian Community Church

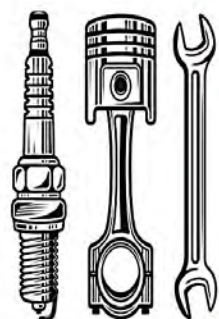
Cnr Burgoyne St & Tutop St, Roxby Downs

Andamooka Community Hall

Lot 281 School Rd, Andamooka

Woomera Community Centre

62 Bundilla Cres, Woomera



RED DIRT CP PTY LTD

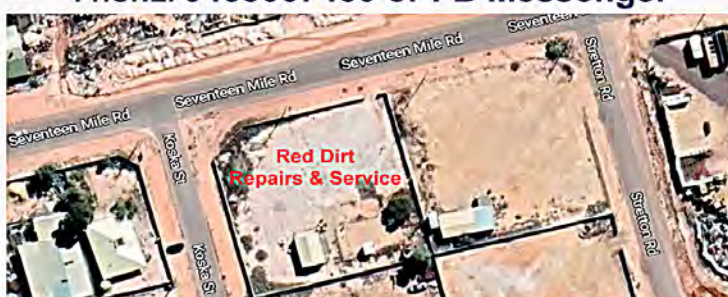
Automotive Repair Shop

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

Illegal tobacco

Criminals profit. Your community pays.

What is illegal tobacco?

- Tobacco grown, manufactured or produced in Australia without a licence.
- Imported tobacco for which no duty has been paid.
- Tobacco sold without payment of taxes.

\$2.7 billion

went to criminals instead of the community*

Growing tobacco in Australia for commercial sale or personal use is illegal.

*2022–23

Life cycle of illegal tobacco



Organised crime syndicates plough the land, ready to plant tobacco seedlings.



Seedlings take 2 to 3 months to grow into mature tobacco plants.



Mature tobacco plants are large and leafy and many have long, trumpet-shaped, white-pinkish flowers.



Harvested tobacco leaves are dried in a kiln and then cut and sold as loose tobacco, otherwise known as 'chop-chop'.

Would you recognise a tobacco plant?

- 2.5 metres tall
- Large green leaves
- Long trumpet-shaped, white-pinkish flowers
- May resemble kale, cabbage or corn.

Signs of an illegal growing operation

- Intense labour production between November and May
- People approaching real estate agents, landowners or farmers to lease land
- Unusual earthworks along creeks and rivers
- Unexplained and potentially unlawful use of water resources
- An unexplained strong tobacco odour
- Unusual source of loose tobacco.

ATO partnerships

The ATO is part of the Illicit Tobacco Taskforce (ITTF), which was established on 1 July 2018 to detect, disrupt and dismantle serious organised crime syndicates that deal in illicit tobacco.

Let's cut illegal tobacco off at the root

- Report growing operations
- Stop buying illegal tobacco products
- Report illegal tobacco products being sold
- Report suspicious activity.

Phone **1800 060 062** to anonymously report suspicious activity.
Visit ato.gov.au/illegaltobacco for more information.



Australian Government
Australian Taxation Office

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OUT MORE**



Government
of South Australia



1300 364 587
CFS.SA.GOV.AU/VOLUNTEER

Kyam Maher MLC
Attorney-General



Tough new child sex abuse laws take effect

The toughest laws in the nation to protect the community from child sex offenders will come into effect in South Australia from Monday 28th April 2025.

Under the law changes, courts must sentence child sex offenders who have served a prison term and then go on to commit a further serious child sex offence to indefinite detention.

These dangerous offenders will never be released unless they can prove that they are no longer a threat to the community by demonstrating they are willing and able to control their sexual instincts.

Even if these offenders are ever released on licence, they will face being electronically monitored for the rest of their lives.

These laws build on other tough new changes to child sex offender laws introduced and passed by the Malinauskas Government including:

- Increasing penalties for a range of child sex abuse offences, such as increasing the maximum penalty for gross indecency with or in the presence of a child from five to 15 years.
- Legislating to ban child sex offenders from working alongside underage employees, in places such as hospitality or retail.
- Strengthening Carly’s Law, so that tough penalties apply to offenders who communicate online with police officers posing as fictitious children.

Attorney General Kyam Maher MLC said, "We now have the nation’s toughest laws against child sex offenders - laws that will see repeat offenders locked away for the rest of their natural lives."

"South Australian kids deserve to be kept safe from these vile monsters."

"By ensuring there are strict criteria in place to prevent the release of serious repeat child sex offenders until such time as the courts can be satisfied they no longer pose a threat, we are ensuring the community is better protected."

"Electronic monitoring of these serious offenders, if they are ever released, will ensure authorities know where they are at all times."

"We can’t undo the harm that these horrible predators have done to children in the past, but we have an obligation to protect the children of today and into the future."

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

For non emergencies call the
Police Assistance Line 131 444

To provide crime information anonymously contact
Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000

WHAT’S ON COURT?

Cooper Pedy Magistrate Court

Malliotis Blvd. Cooper Pedy (08) 8672 5601



Cooper Pedy
Sitting dates in
MAY 2025

Monday 19 May
Tuesday 20 May
Wednesday 21 May
Thursday 22 May

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>



THE 7 ORAL HEALTH ISSUES THAT WE CAN ESSENTIALLY PREVENT

As every dollar matters and Aussies do their best to save, one wellbeing aspect can be easily overlooked. As a dentist with over 12 years experience and a representative of the Australian Dental Association, Dr Mikaela Chinotti has seen it all. She breaks down the seven common oral care issues¹ that are largely preventable.

Dr Mikaela Chinotti says, "Taking an active preventative approach to your oral health will make a big difference to keeping your teeth, mouth and gums healthy. Not all oral care products are made equal, and it is important to understand the differences so you can choose the right regime for you. Here are some common oral care issues to make sure your oral care products address."

Plaque: That fuzzy feeling on your teeth is the sticky, colourless film of bacteria otherwise known as plaque. It forms every time you eat and if not removed regularly, it can harden and become difficult to remove. Dental plaque is a common root cause of tooth decay, gum issues and tooth loss.

Tartar: Tartar is hardened plaque which can only be removed by a dental professional. This rock-like substance can lead to gum irritation, inflammation and eventually gum issues and other oral health issues. A thorough twice-daily brushing regime and regular dental visits can prevent tartar from forming.

Cavities: Cavities start when bacteria in your mouth break down sugars and produce acids that erode enamel to form a hole. Regular cleaning and a healthy diet can help prevent cavities from forming. Cavities can lead to fillings and the need for tooth removal if left untreated.

Bacteria: Your mouth is home to both good and bad bacteria, but without proper care, the bad bacteria can easily take over. When harmful bacteria multiply, they produce acids and toxins that irritate gums and weaken enamel. Oral care products that contain antibacterials, from toothpaste to rinses keep bacteria at bay.

Stains on teeth can be caused by a variety of factors, including buildup, enamel erosion, certain foods and drinks. Products with whitening ingredients can assist with stain removal.

Enamel Erosion: Once your enamel erodes, it is gone for good. This can result in tooth sensitivity, pain and further tooth wear and weakening. The best ways to prevent enamel loss includes limiting acidic food and drink, using a fluoride toothpaste and regular dental check ups.

Bad Breath: Bacteria buildup in your mouth and throat is usually to blame for bad breath, however chronic bad breath is not easily treated with a mint, and can be a telltale sign of cavities, gum disease or even an infection. Regular brushing, flossing, tongue scraping and staying hydrated are key tips Dr Chinotti recommends to keep bad breath at bay.

Saluting Their Service Commemorative Grants Program

Current Grant Opportunity View - GO7626

GO ID: GO7626

Agency: **Department of Veterans' Affairs**

Close Date & Time: 5-Feb-2026 9:00 pm (ACT Local Time) Show
close time for other time zones

Internal Reference ID: 2024-3769

Primary Category: 361001 - Commemorative

Publish Date: 31-Mar-2025

Location: ACT, NSW, VIC, SA, WA, QLD, NT, TAS Selection Process:
Open Competitive



- The Australian Government is inviting eligible organisations to apply for grant funding under the Saluting Their Service Commemorative Grants Program (the program).
- The objective of the program is to commemorate the service and sacrifice of Australia's service personnel who served in wars, conflicts and peace operations, including National Service personnel, and their families.
- The intended outcome of the program is to provide funding for projects and activities that:
 - promote appreciation and understanding of the experiences of service, and the role of service personnel
 - preserve, add to the sum of knowledge on, or provide access to information about Australia's wartime heritage.
- There are 2 categories of grants available under the program:
 - 1. Community Grants (STS-CG)
 - Grants up to \$10,000 are available for local, community-based projects and activities.
 - 2. Major Grants (STS-MG)
 - Grants between \$10,001 and \$150,000 are available for major commemorative projects and activities that are significant from a national, state, territory and/or broader regional perspective.
- If your project relates to restoring or changing a memorial or other commemorative artefact, there may be heritage and conservation considerations. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that all local heritage requirements are met. You may like to seek advice from your local council, RSL, the owner of the memorial, or your state or territory government heritage body.
- **Eligibility:**
 - To be eligible, you must be one of the following entity types:
 - Company
 - Cooperative
 - Corporate State or Territory Entity
 - Incorporated Association
 - Indigenous Corporation
 - Local Government
 - Non-corporate State or Territory Entity
 - Non-corporate State or Territory Statutory Authority
 - Partnership
 - Person
 - Sole Trader
 - Statutory Entity
 - Unincorporated Association – grant activities up to \$10,000 only.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Landcare Agriculture Biodiversity in Action



Landcare Australia's Landcare Agriculture Program is offering funding to landcare and producer groups across Australia to team up with suitable experts to improve and enhance their biodiversity measurement and management skills.

This project will demonstrate how improving environmental practices boosts agricultural production, conservation efforts, community well-being, supply chain reliability, and market access.

The goal of the Landcare Agriculture Biodiversity in Action Grant is to help groups across Australia improve their understanding and management of natural assets on-farm by testing, implementing and evaluating practical initiatives that can restore biodiversity and/or increase biodiversity values. It does this by providing support – including training, field days, and on-ground trials – to advisors, producers, and landcare groups, thereby boosting productivity, resilience, and market access in line with local priorities.

Projects must contribute to achieving both of the following aims:???

- Improve knowledge, skills and confidence in biodiversity measurement, monitoring and management.?
- Test and implement practical on-ground biodiversity management actions.?

To achieve this, project activities must: Increase the capacity and capability of community, landcare groups, producer groups or First Nations agricultural businesses, to work towards the adoption of measurable best practices for sustainable agriculture.??

Directly improve biodiversity and on-farm adoption of best practice sustainable agriculture through on-farm demonstration.?

Funding Available: Projects can be delivered over 2-years or 3-years and can commence from July 2025. At least 10 projects will be funded.?

2-year projects should be to a maximum of \$40,000 (ex-GST)?

3-year projects should be to a maximum of \$75,000 (ex-GST)?

Projects must include on-ground activities or trials to improve farm biodiversity management.

Key dates:

Applications open Tuesday 15th April 2025, 9am AEST

Applications close Friday 16th May 2025, 5pm AEST

Grant outcome notifications 30 June 2025

Final report due 2-year projects 31 May 2027

Final report due 3-year projects 31 May 2028

Applications Groups can apply for the Landcare Agriculture Biodiversity in Action Grant on the Landcare Australia SmartyGrants Portal until 5pm (AEST) 16th May 2025.

Enquiries If you have any questions after reading these guidelines, please contact Angela Hammond at Landcare Australia, ang.hammond@landcareaustralia.com.au or 0402 921 929.

Apply now: <https://landcareaustralia.smartygrants.com.au/LandcareAg2025>
Read Guidelines first.

ASSOCIATIONS

COOBER PEDY MINERS ASSOC.

Coober Pedy SA 3723
Committee Elected for 2024/25
President: Matt Graham,
Secretary:
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)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: Irene Spillman, 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 WA600

13 April

20 April

27 April

4 May

11 May

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

14 April

21 April

28 April

5 May

12 May



SHOOTER'S CLUB ANNUAL FEES



Single Membership \$ 100.00

Couple Membership \$150.00

Family Membership \$ 200.00

Affiliate Membership \$20.00

The Cooper Pedy Shooter's Club is affiliated with the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (South Australia) Incorporated.

<https://ssaasa.org.au>

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