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Friday 9 May, 2025

# CELEBRATING COOBER PEDY COMMUNITY CHAMPION VERONIKA WITHAM

The Community Champion Awards are hosted and sponsored by the Coober Pedy Community Alliance, its members and supporters.

This award recognises that Veronika Witham, long term resident of Coober Pedy, Deputy Principal of Coober Pedy Area School, and local advocate for keeping our town and region beautiful, and so much more, has demonstrated over a long period of time, significant positive impact on this community through her commitment to service, her volunteer efforts and her fine example.

As a role model, Veronika inspires others to contribute. Highlighted is Veronika's exceptional dedication, reliability, and passion for community well-being, known to go above and beyond to improve her local area.

In accepting her Award at its meeting on Saturday 26th April, Veronika thanked the Coober Pedy Community Alliance for recognising and appreciating community contributions over time. "It was an honour to receive a Community Champion Award", said Veronika.

"My affiliation and love for Coober Pedy and its amazing residents began in 1973 when my parents left Andamooka for the bigger and brighter lights of Coober Pedy," she said.

"I began school at Coober Pedy Area School in 1973 and completed Yr 12 in 1979. From there I worked with my father on the opal fields for about a year, before heading off to explore Australia and overseas."

Veronika actively travelled and traversed Australia; living overseas for 12 years and working in a variety of locations such as in the Pilbara region of Western Australia where she explored for alluvial gold, then became employed as a lab technician for a tomato processing company in Parkes, NSW.

She recalls living in Townsville Qld in 1982 and going to college for a year to upgrade her Yr 12 Chemistry and Maths subjects as she had aspirations to become a Geologist, (sadly didn't eventuate).

"After returning to Coober Pedy in 1992 having spent the previous 5 years in England and Scotland Veronika began work at CPAS as a School Services Officer, (teacher's aid). I became a volunteer in the Coober Pedy Ambulance service in the same year, and attended many critical incidents in our community and on our highway."

"Veronika recalls one afternoon in 1993, "I was sitting at my friends' house having coffee when my beeper went off. I called in to get the job description and was told there had been a school bus rollover on the William Creek Road, a considerable distance from Coober Pedy.

My adrenalin kicked in at the thought of injured children as I raced to the hospital to prepare the ambulance."

The scale and immensity of this tragedy in which one young girl was killed and many others seriously injured was more than Veronika could take and following this accident, she resigned from the service.

Fellow Emergency Services volunteer Andy Sheils ESM of the Coober Pedy Mine Rescue Squad recalls that horrific event, but more so that Veronika excelled in her duty as a Volunteer Ambulance Officer and did her team proud.

"Besides being relatively new to the Ambulance Service and like all of us confronted by the scene, Veronika's training cut in and she soon assessed which casualties needed immediate help and first aid," Andy told us.

In 1996 Veronika began external study towards a teaching degree whilst working as an SSO and raising her son Luke, then finally receiving her Bachelor of Education qualification in 2002.

Veronika began work as a teacher at CPAS in 2003, teaching for two years before moving to Port Lincoln in 2005 where she spent the next ten years in the corporate sector of education as a Project Officer recruiting mentor volunteers into schools.

Veronika packed a lot into her experience working in schools across South Australia's Eyre Peninsula, including the position of Attendance Officer who's primary responsibility is to promote and maintain high attendance rates among students.

Her last stint away, was 6 years as a Behaviour Coach. Then in 2016, Veronika returned to Coober Pedy to work as a relief teacher whilst she cared for her father.

Following on from her return 'home', in 2017 she won the position of Senior Leader in Intervention at CPAS. Then between 2018-2020 she returned to her role as Behaviour Coach based in Coober Pedy and working in Far North schools including Andamooka and Roxby Downs.



Veronika thanks Coober Pedy Community for the honour of "Community Champion"

In 2021 Veronika won a 3 year position as Assistant Principal of the Coober Pedy Area School, (a very proud moment). Last year in 2024 Veronika applied for and won the Deputy Principal role, which remains her current position today.

Veronika said she enjoys working with the young people in our community, endeavoring to be a positive role model to highlight that no matter where you come from and how long it takes, you can eventually succeed in achieving your life goals.

"In amongst all of that I have worked as a Dental assistant, hairdresser's assistant, spent years in the hospitality trade (waitress at the Old Acropolis restaurant in 1980), worked as a cleaner in schools and hospitals, worked in retail etc", said Veronika.

And those of us who have walked and worked alongside Veronika will know that in our history here at Coober Pedy, she has volunteered on a number of committees including, Secretary for Rate Payers Association, Member of Historical Society, member of Hospital Advisory Committee, School Governing council and currently Child Safeguarding person for Catholic Parish.

"Growing up in Coober Pedy taught me to be tough, resilient and to never give up. It provided the right opportunities at the right time, taught me to understand people from all cultures and walks of life and taught me that life is too short to waste time and harbour grudges", she said.

"I am definitely a child of Coober Pedy and it definitely runs through my blood..." she said.



Clean Up Coober Pedy day! Veronika (pictured above) participates in Clean Up Coober Pedy day on the first Sunday of each month where those interested can register, and pick up gloves and bags in the Council car park from 8.30 am onwards. This activity is sponsored by the Coober Pedy Historical Society.

**SERVING THE OPAL CAPITAL OF THE WORLD SINCE 1982**

## ABOUT US

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

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

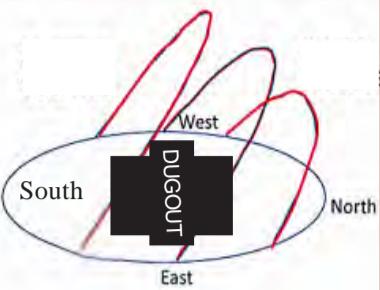
**Editor - Margaret Mackay**  
PO Box 10 Coober Pedy SA 5723  
Ph: (08) 8672 5920  
Email: [editor@cooberpedytimes.com](mailto:editor@cooberpedytimes.com)  
<https://cooberpedytimes.com/>

## Advertising Rates

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

## 7 DAYS WEATHER at COOBER PEDY Oodnadatta Tarcoola Andamooka Roxby Downs

	SUN May 11	MON May 12	TUE May 13	WED May 14	THU May 15	FRI May 16	SAT May 17						
<b>Summary</b>													
<b>Maximum</b>	26°C	27°C	26°C	25°C	23°C	21°C	21°C						
<b>Minimum</b>	9°C	11°C	11°C	12°C	10°C	10°C	10°C						
<b>Chance of Rain Likely Amount</b>	5% <1mm	5% <1mm	5% <1mm	5% <1mm	5% <1mm	5% <1mm	5% <1mm						
<b>UV Index</b>	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate						
<b>Frost Risk</b>	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil						
	9am 16km/h E	3pm 9km/h ESE	9am 15km/h ESE	3pm 15km/h ESE	9am 11km/h SSE	3pm 12km/h S	9am 24km/h SSW	3pm 22km/h SSW	9am 23km/h S	3pm 20km/h SSW	9am 22km/h S	3pm 23km/h SSE	9am 22km/h SE
<b>Wind Speed</b>													



Winter 2025 June solstice  
21 Jun 12:42 pm

Spring 2025 Sept equinox  
23 Sep 4:19 am

## MAILING LIST

Send an email to be included on emailing list

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



Margaret Mackay  
Editor

**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.



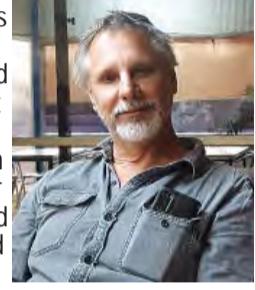
Sgt Angus Lovelock,  
Police Reports.

**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

## Bi Monthly

# Local Scribes

## 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

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

\*Over 40 Nationalities bonded by the OPAL Industry

Coober Pedy - The True Jewel of South Australia

Margaret Mackay ©

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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 23 May 2025  
Friday 06 Jun 2025  
Friday 23 Jun 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.

# FOSSICKING FOR OPAL

## The Rules

### Fossicking Definition

Fossicking means the gathering of precious stones (opal) as a recreation, or without the intention to sell the stones or to utilise them for a commercial or industrial purpose. Note: Does not include gathering precious stones through disturbance of land by machinery or explosives.

Opal Fields are no place for children!



Dangers are everywhere, a child's safety will be placed at risk!

- Open mine shafts / exploration drill holes,
- Unstable ground, undercut shaft edges and deep trenches,
- Explosions,
- Mobile plant and operating machinery, and
- Snakes and insects.

Falling into a mine shaft, deep trench or open cut pit, can / will sustain serious injuries or death!

Personal Protective Equipment and Supplies

It can reach temperatures of up to 50 degrees during summer months, and the following is recommended:

- Apply 50+ rating sunscreen to protect exposed skin from the sun's UV radiation,
- Wear a broadbrim hat, strong lightweight clothing, gloves and enclosed footwear, and
- Wear a P2 Dust mask / respirator when generating dust to prevent possible exposure to respirable crystalline silica.
- Carry enough cool drinking water and fuel for the trip.

Note: Camping is illegal on South Australian opal fields!

### Communications

When fossicking alone:

- Tell someone where (location) you are going,
- Have communications (phone, two way radio etc...) to regularly check in, and
- Ensure your contact person knows what to do if you don't check in!



Accessing Opal Fields - Know your Location!



- Use a GPS, compass, or take pictures of locations or ground markings to ensure you know the right way out of the areas,
- Recommend having a 3m flexible flag (orange) or an amber flashing light to make vehicle visible, and
- Drive slow, look for traffic and drive to conditions, Note: Mine shafts are everywhere, keep eyes open!

### Hidden Dangers!



Look where you place your feet, and never walk backwards!

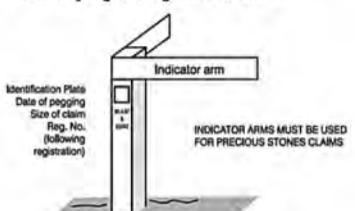
Mine shafts can be covered with sheets of corrugated iron or thin metal mesh, spinifex, mullock heap spoil and other materials which can hide the dangers.

Stepping on these areas, can result in the material / ground collapsing, and a person falling down a mine shaft.

It is recommended to:

- Use a thin long steel rod or piece of wood to test the ground in front of you when walking around the base of a heap.
- Listening for metal on metal type sounds when taping / pushing into the material, is a good way to identify these hazards.

### Identifying a Registered Claim



A registered claim can be identified by:

- A post on each corner of the claim with a with a permit number attached to the post.
- Each posts must be at least 70 mm thick and stand at least 0.750 mm above the surface of the ground.
- Posts must be knocked securely into the ground and have indicator arms on the outer sides of the post to show the direction and clearly identify the claim boundary.

It is an offence for fossickers to enter or remain on land comprised in a claim without obtaining the permission of the owner of the claim

### Dangerous Ground

Dangerous ground is an area of ground (mine shafts, tunnels, open pits, faces etc...) that has been deemed unsafe to access, fossick or mine by the Department for Energy and Mining, because it has either collapsed, or has the potential to collapse.

Dangerous ground can be identified by a "Danger - Unsafe Ground, No Mining Permitted" sign, or by Red Post Markers knocked into the ground.

Accessing or mining dangerous ground is prohibited without approval from SafeWork SA.



### Identifying Unsafe Ground

Signs of potentially unsafe ground conditions are, but not limited to:

- Sunken ground, cracked / split ground,
- Open voids, and
- Weathered / eroded shaft edges

### Fossicking

Fossickers are warned against entering old open cut and underground workings as many dangers may exist!



- Fossicking can only take place to a maximum depth of 1 metre,
- All holes must be refilled,
- Unstable ground, stale air and lack of oxygen,
- Unprotected openings and water filled holes,
- Fossicking into sides of excavations may cause a cave in,
- Large stockpiles may collapse unexpectedly if undercut.

Note: Seek assistance of experienced and competent miners to assist before entering old mines!

### Caldwell Drill Holes and Exploration holes

Do not stand too close to an edge of a mine shaft! Rains can erode and undercut the ground around the top edge of a mine shaft, whilst still giving the appearance of solid ground.

When weight is placed on the ground around the edge of the shaft, the ground can give away and collapse!

### Mullock Heaps



Mullock heaps are mounds of material that have been dug from a mine shaft and underground, and are generally known as waste material, and can be very slippery to climb.

Mine shafts are located at the bases of a heaps. When climbing, a loss of footing could result in a person sliding to the bottom of the heap, into a mine shaft resulting in serious injury or death.

Always climb a heap on the opposite side to a mine shaft opening, and always take a bucket of material from a heap and search though it on stable, safe ground.

### Active Claims as at the 09/05/2025

Andamooka 164; Coober Pedy 463;  
 Mintabie 9; Stuart Creek 1



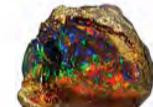
Government of South Australia  
 Department for Energy and Mining

# Opal Mining Act 1995

## Part 3—Precious stones tenements

### 25—Unlawful entry on tenement

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



### Maximum Penalty:

# \$10,000.

### FIRST AID & EMERGENCY

Be prepared for minor first aid injuries or emergency situations while fossicking in the opal fields.

Snakes are all too common in these areas, they can be found in shafts and holes, or curled up under a bush or a piece of tin.

The "inland taipan" and the "brown snake" are extremely poisonous and will attack if they feel threatened.

Ensure your first aid kit has a snake bite kit in it and familiarise with the requirements for first aid treatment of a snake bite.

It is recommended at a minimum, that the following is carried in a vehicle at all times whilst in the opal fields:

- A small first aid kit, and snake bite kit, and
- List of emergency contact numbers

Emergency Contact Numbers

- Ambulance, Fire and Police : 000
- Coober Pedy Mine Rescue / SES - EMERGENCY ONLY : 132 500
- Andamooka SES : 0427 181 752
- Andamooka CFS : 0408 807 943



# COOBER PEDY'S PUBLIC SERVICE SHOULD BE ASHAMED. Those who adopted the Australian life, and are now denied!

On the 27th of April 2025 Arthur Makris age 86, a long term resident of Coober Pedy of 50 years was forced to leave Coober Pedy in fear of his life, due to uncontrolled, ongoing crime in the town. In our view he was neglected by the Federal, State and Local Government Public Servants.

Arthur moved to Coober Pedy with his wife Maria and three children in 1978. He opened up his own business a Greek Kafeneo on the Main street, with all the single male and ethnic opal miners around at the time, it flourished.

Arthur's wife Maria worked with Sergio at the Opal inn, then owned by the Coro family. Sergio would prepare international quality cuisine for the community and tourists. Arthur's children went to school, and in turn they worked and raised their children in Coober Pedy.

His family gave back to the community in many ways, from Arthur playing in a Greek Band to raise money for the Greek Hall to his children contributing to the organising of competitive sports, the Greek Orthodox Community Club and other community clubs, local government and prominent contributions through their work endeavours.

Arthur's wife suffered from early onset of dementia in her early 60's warranting nursing home care. However, Arthur stayed true to his culture and traditions and refused to place Maria in care. He cared for her at home with minimal formal and informal supports for close to 15 years until her passing. Arthur didn't rely on the public servants then; he took on his carers role with love and determination.

Post his wife's passing close to 20 years ago, he has survived the isolation with his few Greek friends that were still alive and living in Coober Pedy. They would get together he would play Greek songs on his guitar and remember the good old days.

Arthur's safety net and community started unhinging as his cronies got older. Many were assaulted and forced to relocate to Adelaide, many relocated in fear, not by choice. One such gentleman was hurried out of his home after a robbery and an assault and relocated to a location in Adelaide unfamiliar to him. He died the following day. His family to this day are blaming 'the system'.

There are only a few older people from his cultural group living in Coober Pedy now, the rest have been neglected, mistreated; had their human rights diminished and have either passed or been forced to leave Coober Pedy

Those brave pioneers that escaped from troubled European situations to have a new life in the "lucky country" and committed themselves to the Australian way of life, now feel betrayed.

Arthur suffered three home invasions in 2 months, whilst asleep in his home; no concern demonstrated by the leaders at DCCP in respect to their responsibility to community safety, in fact they state they have no responsibility to community safety. A concerned discussion with the local police or better still the Police Minister did not occur.

No emergency responses to 000 calls, it took Coober Pedy Police 4 hours to attend Arthur's property. Aged care services are substandard and rarely accessible; unethical and unconscionable, is our observation.

Arthur never accepted the options tabled by his adult children around residing with one of them in Adelaide or Melbourne; he was very firm around that. Arthur wanted to die in Coober Pedy, where his wife is buried so he can rest by her side.

This dream of Arthur's ended on the 27th of April when he was rescued by his two daughters and grandson and relocated to a safer space. We adopted your culture Australia, and now we are denied.

It cannot be fathomed by Arthur and his family how a town with so many beautiful memories and blessed times, and a country they have called their home for most of their lives has become so toxic toward its elderly.

There are still some kind caring community people left in Coober Pedy, who came to assist and support Arthur. However, they are not public servants, so where are the workers that we fund with our taxes and why aren't they meeting the ever evolving needs of the community that provides them with financial support?



Arthur Makris moments before he was forced to leave the home and town he loved



Arthur with his two daughters and grandson arriving from interstate to move him to Adelaide

Arthur's daughter (above left) Julia Papillo went to high school in Coober Pedy and worked for TAFE and as a receptionist at the Opal Inn until she met her husband who is Robert Coros first cousin (he was visiting his family from Adelaide), she left Coober Pedy in the late 80's got married and has 2 daughters. Julia was prominent in sports, organising competitions and playing basketball and netball.

Arthur's son Louie Makris, (not present) went to primary school and high school in Coober Pedy and trained as a motor mechanic at Kypro's garage in the 80's and 90's. He then worked with Yanni Pandelli in the Miners store hardware and also as an opal miner.

Louie married a Coober Pedy girl, and they now have a daughter and a son. They moved to Adelaide in the late early 2000's. Louie was active in all competitive sports and volunteering as a committee member for many years with the Greek Orthodox Community Club.

Katrina moved to Coober Pedy when she was 17 and had just deferred from Adelaide University. She commenced work at the Bank of NSW, married a Coober Pedian when she turned 21 and within 3 years had a son and a daughter. Katrina was always volunteering, in competitive sports and the community clubs. In the late 80's she commenced working for the Department of Community Welfare as a Community Support Worker progressing to a senior status running community development projects for the Department. Katrina served as a councillor and Deputy Mayor for a period of 4 years and relocated to Melbourne in 2000.

Since Arthur began living in fear with the ongoing home invasions, the primary responsibility sat with Katrina, her son John Andrea and sister Julia. They all work full time, and spent many hours in a day responding to his crisis and having to navigate the service system in Adelaide where he is not deemed to be an Adelaidian, he is a Coober Pedian. They all took time away from their families and work to travel to Coober Pedy twice over the past 3 months to rescue Arthur who had fallen through the holes in the system.

"The public service practice framework in Coober Pedy in our view is unconscionable; SHAME! Stand up and protest Coober Pedians; the time is right, the time is now, do not accept any violations of your basic human right to safety", said Katrina.



Rowan Ramsey, Federal Member for Grey flew to Coober Pedy and spoke with older members of the Community Pictured speaking with Arthur Makris and Con Christopoulos at a Community Alliance mtg

## WOULDN'T HURT TO WEAR A SEATBELT.

THINK! ROAD SAFETY

Government of South Australia



# Plea for safer behaviour with National Road Safety Week

The State Government is pleading for people to be safer on our roads as National Road Safety Week begins.

**Already this year 29 lives have been lost on our roads.**

The State Government has released a comprehensive new Road Safety Action Plan to reduce lives lost by 50 per cent and serious injuries by 30 per cent by 2031.

This includes the introduction of time-based 40km/h zones at priority sites near schools to protect some of the state's most vulnerable road users with these to be progressively implemented from mid-2025.

Another key prevention measure has been the introduction of mobile phone detection cameras to reduce road trauma caused by driver distraction.

Latest data shows the mobile phone detection cameras have been effective, with the number of drivers caught using their mobile phone dropping by 86% at locations where new cameras have been introduced.

Several other important road safety initiatives were recently implemented, including:

- New licensing requirements for drivers of ultra-high powered vehicles
- Release of a Road Safety at Work guide to support organisations embed a culture of road safety in the workplace
- Enhancements to the Rider Safe program for novice motorbike riders
- New online Hazard Perception Test

During National Road Safety Week, SA Police will be running Operation Danger, which focuses on dangerous road use offences including following too close, disobeying traffic lights and dangerously changing lanes.

The RAA will launch a new regional road safety program of community Town Hall events for local road users to share their experiences on what can be done to reduce the overrepresentation of lives lost on regional roads.

Stephen Mullighan MP said, "Reducing the lives lost and serious injuries on South Australia's roads is a top priority for this Government.

**Every road death or serious injury is a tragedy and has an impact on families, friends, communities and the emergency service personnel who respond to incidents or work to save lives.**

The Government launched its new Road Safety Action Plan earlier this year to improve safety on our roads, which includes important initiatives such as reducing speed limits near schools.

Superintendent Shane Johnson, SA Police Traffic Services Branch Officer in Charge, said, "Today, and every day, South Australia Police does our part in making roads across Australia safe - and we urge all road users to do the same throughout National Road Safety Week.

Throughout National Road Safety Week, police will conduct Operation Danger, which targets easily avoidable offences and if drivers obey them, they're less likely to cause a crash.

Road users should simply make safe road choices and drive to survive. Give each other space between vehicles, check your blind spots and slow down as you approach intersection."

# STEVE KONCZ & THE PEARL-OPAL STORY



**Pearlops are opals seeded into a pearlshell and put back in the sea for 12-18 months**



**A pearlopal made into a pendant in 2017 by jeweler Mark Sellens**

## The "Pearl-Opal" Story began with an idea..

In 1999, **Steve Koncz**, an opal cutter, wholesaler and "out of the box" thinker, dreamed up an idea to seed pearl oysters with Australian boulder opals and let them grow together. He calls his new gems, "Pearlop".

After the idea was born, it took 8 years of trial and error before the first successful commercial harvest of Pearlopal. Various attempts at Australian pearl farms were performed.

Steve was persistent in discovering what modifications were necessary for the shells to accept the opals.

**Australian Boulder Opal.** Each one of these boulder opals (pictured above) has spent 1 year in the ocean whilst the mollusk has grown mother of pearl around the stone. Sometimes there is a bezel of gold around the stone which was also in the water for this time.



**Pearlop polished and shaped with a bezel of gold around the stone**



Many problems can arise, such as cyclones, whales tangling the lines holding the shells, disappearing shells (through no fault of the pearl farmers) The opal inserts themselves even had to undergo modification several times before the shells would accept them.

## The production of Pearlopal is truly a case of "Desert meets the ocean".

To explain more about the process, firstly the opal miner digs the opal from underground where it has taken millions of years to form, then the opal is passed on to an opal cutter who carefully shapes and polishes it - bringing out its magnificent colours...

The opal is specially prepared for its insertion into the pearl shell... The preparation involves 3 separate steps that have to be just right, if the preparation is not exactly right the shell will die.

The pearl-shell is then gently coaxed open. It can't be forced as the stress would kill it, so they are only opened about 2cm, then a technician skilfully inserts the opal (sometimes with gold setting around it).

The pearl-shell is then rested and returned to the ocean. Once there, it has to be regularly cleaned to prevent marine growths and worms from causing harm.

Once the pieces are processed they are taken to our jewelers and further skilled work is done to set them, mostly in pendants using 18ct. gold.

Pearlop is currently being made in Australia. This pristine area is the ideal home for the creation of this new gem.

We have so far achieved up to 100% success rate with seeding, which is indeed rare.

We thank Steve for sharing his story with us and we continue to thank him for his generous donation of Pearlops to the Coober Pedy Community Alliance to raffle for a good cause.

**Left: The unique pearlopal having bonded in nature makes a stunning pendant design**



## **NEXT MEETING** **Saturday, 31 May 2025, at 4pm.** **JOHN'S PIZZA BAR**

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

**AGENDA WILL BE ISSUED FROM THE 23rd MAY, 2025.**

### **Community Engagement for the Drive-In Master Plan**

**concludes on 16 May 2025, and all comments/suggestions received will be presented to the May 2025 Meeting of Council.**

**Click LINK to view the Draft Master Plan**

[https://www.cooberpedy.sa.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0045/1799199/Masterplan-for-Coober-Pedy-Drive-In-FINAL-10-July-2023.pdf](https://www.cooberpedy.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0045/1799199/Masterplan-for-Coober-Pedy-Drive-In-FINAL-10-July-2023.pdf)

**Complete the "Have Your Say" Form here**

<https://www.cooberpedy.sa.gov.au/forms/Coober-Pedy-Drive-In-Draft-Master-Plan-Community-Engagement>

**Click here for answers to Frequently Asked Questions**

[https://www.cooberpedy.sa.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0042/1799196/Frequently-Asked-Questions.pdf](https://www.cooberpedy.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0042/1799196/Frequently-Asked-Questions.pdf)

### **Some current concerns and considerations by members of the Coober Pedy Community**

**Q. 1 I do not like the 'master plan' Q. 2) These are my reasons.**

- This project appears to have no direct benefit to the ratepayers and their families.
- For the amount of funding required, and the obvious amount of maintenance and ongoing costs to upkeep this 'Urban-Style Facility has not been identified. Why? With a dwindling population, the costs would be born by fewer ratepayers.
- The project is not economically viable. Why wasn't a feasibility study done on this particular plan? It will not have many if any, original elements of our history or community useability remaining in the new purpose and design.
- Why wasn't the Heritage aspect of our frontier-style outback mining town considered? How and when was there a decision made to convert our community's heritage asset into an urban-style "attraction" for tourists and potential filmmakers? There is likely to be fallout from this, if approved.
- In all fairness, rather than this rushed, almost inconvenient consultation of sorts, why wasn't an independent Socio-Economic Study done to assess the potential social and economic consequences of a proposed development or change in other status'.
- Isn't it the Council's responsibility to properly understand both the benefits and harms, and the range of impacts on community, businesses, and individuals? An independent Socio-Economic Study exists to aid councils in informed decision-making, identifying mitigation strategies, and maximising positive impacts while minimising negative ones.
- Alternatively, what is the rush? Coober Pedy is over 100 years old as an opal mining town. Why not wait until our community has a democratically elected council again, and we are able to discuss and decide under more appropriate circumstances.
- We ask this current council to focus on reducing the debt, not increasing it and creating ongoing hardship for the ratepayers and new people looking to buy homes, who are unwittingly inheriting council's debt.


**COOBER PEDY COMMUNITY ALLIANCE**

## NEXT MEETING

### Saturday, 31 May 2025, at 4pm.

### JOHN'S PIZZA BAR

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

**AGENDA WILL BE ISSUED FROM THE 23rd MAY, 2025.**

**Letter below:** In light of increasing costs being imposed upon Coober Pedy's Ratepayers, being businesses and all property owners, George Kountouris, Chair of the Coober Pedy Retail, Business and Tourism Association has written to the State Government asking them to release information on reckless and irresponsible spending of our money and resources in areas that are unproductive and for the most part, bears no relevance to our remote communities dire needs for survival. This includes Council's overuse of "consultants". The Council has already admitted to not being able to pay its debts hence all assets in the town are mortgaged. (If the council was a private company, it would be called TRADING INSOLVENT.)

Dear Minister,

I enclose a circulated request addressed to you and other appointed personnel of the District Council of Coober Pedy (non-elected).

Many residents of Coober Pedy are seeking information, clarity, and the rationale behind your department's and the Malinauskas Government's continued backing of Consultant Michael Edgecomb, and the social engineering of our town's political and community structure through the "Together Group."

While we understand it was the previous Marshall Government that dismissed our elected councillors and installed administrators, you and the Malinauskas Government have pursued and allowed the funding of a person not formally qualified to act as our Mayor, and watch him assume an emperor-like presence within the Coober Pedy Council, while being paid out of funds that are allocated predominantly for municipal and essential services for the Ratepayers and Residents and our environment.

Many of us would like answers to the following important questions:

- What have been Mr Edgecomb's various annual salaries?
- Have the council paid vehicle, travel, accommodation, meals or other - past and present?
- Why are these arrangements not publicly documented and disclosed?
- Is he paid by the hour or day or upon invoice? If invoice how is the information verified?
- Does he have an office within the Council Chambers?
- Was and is his position advertised and tendered in accordance with local government procurement processes?
- From whom does he take instruction — the appointed (non-elected) Council, the Malinauskas Government, or the Governor General?
- Have you agreed to him and his group of 2,3 or currently 7 representing the 1,700 residents of Coober Pedy?
- Were you or your department satisfied with dealing with an unincorporated entity, and were you aware of the risks involved in outsourcing tasks to such a body?
- Why was Mr Edgecomb permitted to sit on the interview selection panel for the appointment of the last CEO, Garry Herdegen?
- Was this done with your knowledge? Given there are strict rules on the appointment of senior local government positions, was this not a violation of the Local Government Act, which requires qualified personnel to oversee such appointments?
- How much of Mr Edgecomb's paid consulting and advising work — both in Coober Pedy and in Adelaide — are you aware of?
- How much of the \$30,000 consultancy fee allocated for the Drive-In project did he receive, either directly or indirectly?

- When were these funds paid, to whom, and from what source?
- Can we please view a full breakdown of these costings?
- Were there any other tenders for the insurance-funded Drive-In repair work, if so, how many and what was the process? Who sat on that selection process?
- Regarding the current proposal for the Coober Pedy Drive-In: According to the Council minutes, your appointed Administrative Council agreed to the proposal (via Mr Edgecomb) before public consultation had even occurred. Why were none of the 10 other major local associations consulted beforehand?
- Additionally, can you clarify the exact role and legal authority of the Administrative Council?
- Has the Local Government Act been disregarded on the basis that Coober Pedy has no elected representation?
- We are concerned that most Malinauskas Government departments are now treating the Coober Pedy Together group as the primary point of contact for the town. Are you aware of the advice and actions being taken in your name?
- Is it truly your and your department's strategy to "dumb down" this community by using a small, unelected group to govern the majority?

We unitedly and strongly object to an unqualified individual — with no expertise in tourism, business, opal mining, retail, or civil governance — acting as our representative, especially when financed by our hard-earned money and backed by a complacent Department for Local Government.

Accordingly, we respectfully request your presence in Coober Pedy for a public town meeting, where you can personally answer these questions and address many other serious concerns that exist within our community. Your last visit once again resulted in consultants being engaged to assess our town, with no reported outcomes.

The majority of Coober Pedy residents remain passionate, committed, and ready to contribute to the wellbeing of our town. However, the last time North Terrace was involved in Coober Pedy we had a catastrophic EDL deal with resulted in the Ombudsman deeming the process as one of the worst cases of maladministration in the history of ICAC, and yet nobody was charged, rendering our council unfit for re-election for years to come.

Please respond to our questions in writing and confirm your availability for a town meeting. We believe this meeting would also benefit from the attendance of both local and Adelaide media.

Yours sincerely George Kountouris

Opal Miner | Business Owner | Investor  
Chair — Coober Pedy Retail, Business and Tourism Association Incorporated

# ANZAC DAY COOBER PEDY 2025

## ORDER OF SERVICE

The Coober Pedy RSL Sub Branch  
welcomes you to our  
Anzac Day service.

## COMMEMORATIVE ADDRESS

Fr Paul Crotty (Reading)

## LAYING OF WREATHS

### THE ODE

Mr. Mick Cox, Coober Pedy RSL Sub Branch  
They shall grow not old, as we that  
are left grow old:

Age shall not weary them, nor the  
years condemn:

At the going down of the sun and in  
the morning

We will remember them



**Veterans and supporters marching to the Cenotaph in Hutchison Street Coober Pedy**

## THE LAST POST - ONE MINUTE SILENCE

## THE ROUSE

RESPONSE - Lest we forget

## NATIONAL ANTHEMS

### NEW ZEALAND

E Ihoa Atua,  
O nga Iwi Matoura,  
Ata whaka rongona;  
Me aroha noa.  
Kia hua ko te pai;  
Kia tau to atawhai;  
Manaakitia mai  
Aotearoa

God of nations! At Thy feet  
In the bonds of love we meet,  
Hear our voices, we entreat,  
God defend our Free Land.  
Guard Pacific's triple star,  
From the shafts of strife and war,  
Make her praises heard afar,  
God defend New Zealand ... Aotearoa

## AUSTRALIAN

Australians all let us rejoice  
For we are young and free  
We've golden soil and wealth for toil  
Our home is girt by sea  
Our land abounds in natures gifts  
Of beauty rich and rare  
In hist'rys page let ev'ry stage  
Advance Australia Fair  
In joyful strains then let us sing  
Advance Australia Fair

## IN FLANDERS FIELDS - Fr Paul Crotty.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow In  
Flanders fields.  
by John McCrea

It is the Soldier, not the minister  
Who has given us freedom of religion  
It is the Soldier, not the reporter  
Who has given us freedom of the press  
It is the Soldier, not the campus organizer  
Who has given us the freedom to protest  
It is the Soldier, not the lawyer  
Who has given us the right to a fair trial  
It is the Soldier, not the politician  
Who has given us the right to vote  
It is the Soldier who salutes the flag  
Who serves beneath the flag  
Whose coffin is draped by the flag  
Who allows the protestor to burn the flag  
Charles M. Province (a soldier)  
MC  
They died in every quarter of the earth and  
on all its seas  
And their graves are made sure to them by  
their kin  
The main host lie buried in the lands of our  
allies of the wars who have set aside their  
resting places in honour  
For ever and ever. Amen  
CLOSURE : Fr Paul Crotty.

## THANK YOU to OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS

- Geoff for stocking the bar, Kingsley and Miriam for getting the extra stock required.
- Miriam for organising the wreaths and raffle.
- Cellarbrations for the raffle donation.
- Rod and Anthony for laying the new service for the Two-Up.
- Bob for the plants.
- Raylene, Father Paul and Mick Cox for the Dawn Service.
- Barney and Rod on the flags. Mick, Chevahn and Anthony for laying the wreaths.
- IGA for their generous donation of supplies for the Gunfire Breakfast.
- Paul, Erica, Roz and all the CFS members who helped run the breakfast, it was a great success. Well done. We'll book you all again next year. Paul Howard for the extra egg's donation. Roz and Miriam for the Anzac Biscuits.
- Julie for providing the live music. Can we book you now for next year. It was great to listen to while working the bar.



**Flag bearers and marchers assembled**



**Speakers Fr. Paul Crotty and Raylene Hagel**



**Overview of the 10am service at the Cenotaph**

## THANK YOU to OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS

- George Russell for selling the raffle tickets.
- Raylene, Miriam, Bec and Bear for working the bar during the day.
- Barney and Pablo running the Two-Up at short notice.
- Mary, Jenny and Tatiana for providing lunch and dinner.
- Coober Pedy Regional Times for donating advertising, photography and followup media
- Thank you to anyone else that I may have forgotten, my sincere apologies.
- Without all the wonderful volunteers the RSL wouldn't survive.

# EASTER LONG WEEKEND - Italian Club



# COOBER PEDY POLICE NEWS

Coober Pedy - 19/04/2025 - 09/05/2025

**22-04-2025** – Overnight unknown persons have entered into a Business Premises on Nicholas Street and stolen a small amount of property. Investigations are continuing and anyone with information is asked to call crime stoppers on 1800 333 000.

**27-04-2025** – At about 1.30 pm Police and CFS responded to a report of an abandoned caravan that had been set on fire on Williams Road Umoona Community. The abandoned caravan was destroyed in the fire. CFS crews extinguished the fire. Police have been unable to identify the owner. Anyone with information is asked to call crime stoppers on 1800 333 000.

**30-04-2025** – In the early hours of the morning an unknown person has broken into a business premises on Hutchison Street and then entered two vehicles that were also parked on the premises. Anyone with information is asked to call crime stoppers on 1800 333 000.

**30-04-2025** – A business premises on Robins Boulevard suffered a break in. Unknown persons have gained entry and stolen a small amount of property from inside. Anyone with information is asked to call crime stoppers on 1800 333 000.

## Coober Pedy Gem Trade Show

held over the Easter long weekend at the Croatian Club

Photos continued from last edition



Visitors at the Opal Australis stand at GTS



Historical Society Stand at GTS. Edi and Jenny



Placid Gems stand, with Matt Graham, Will and Aaron



Leon Stafford the Blacklight Guy at GTS



Milo at Regent Opals from Adelaide



Antun Alavija volunteer barman Croatian Club

# Coober Pedy Gem Trade Show

held over the Easter long weekend at the Croatian Club

Photos continued from last edition



Trevor and Shona Lawrence chatting at the Unearthed Opal stand



Local lads at the Edwards Opal stand



Opal buyer Juergen Schuetz with Mark Jackson, Liam Jackson and Eloise Carlariella



Luka Alavija; Mercedita Purega Laya, Charmie Castillo



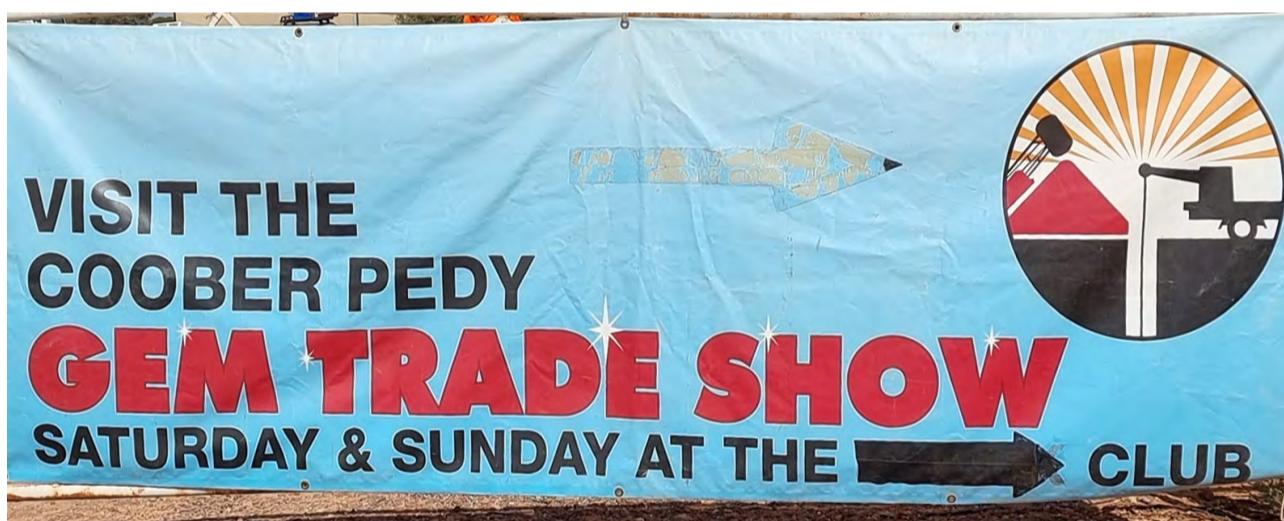
Ladies responsible for the GTS lunches. Lily, Flora, Mercedita, Rachel and Ivanka



The Miner's Association Drill



The Bill Fradd Stand; a regular at the Gem Trade Show



## SENATOR JACINTA NAMPIJINPA PRICE ANNOUNCES HER CANDIDACY FOR DEPUTY LEADER OF LIBERALS

Jacinta Nampijinpa Price has announced her candidacy for the position of Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party, and her endorsement of Angus Taylor's candidacy for Leader of the Liberal Party.

As I've said with respect to my decision to change party rooms, these are not matters which I take lightly, and this decision today brings with it a great deal of responsibility which I fully accept.

There is no question that returning to our roots as a party is critical right now.

If we want to inspire and empower Australians across our country, we must return to these roots – these basic values – that define who we are as a party.

We must once more remember and fight for the forgotten people, those on whose shoulders Australian society has been built and still depends.

These are the mainstream Australians who have a big contribution to make.



Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price

I think of my grandparents, who were by no means the elite, building their first home by hand with hessian bags and washing their clothes in the creek in Warners Bay, NSW. But they saw a spark, a vision of a brighter future for generations to come.

My Warlpiri grandparents caught the vision and transitioned from nomadic desert life into community life during the emergence of a modern Australia.

They were the original Aussie battlers – the forgotten people.

Their courage to grab hold of aspiration with both hands has paved the way for a desert kid like me to put my hand up to lead.

Like my grandparents, I too see a spark. I see a brighter future for generations to come. I want others to see this future for themselves. That's what my candidacy for Deputy Leader is all about – a brighter future not just for the Liberal Party, but for all Australians.

# THE 36th COOBER PEDY OPAL FESTIVAL



## 13th - 15th June, 2025

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



Regional Event Funding Program Partner

**BHP**



District Council of Coober Pedy

**Peak**  
IRON MINES

**LANDSCAPE**  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
SA ARID LANDS



### The Mparntwe band



JOIN US for the biggest bush dance Coober Pedy has ever seen at this year's Coober 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>

**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**



**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 Augusta 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**



**PUBLIC NOTICE**



Parliament of South Australia

**PROGRAMS TO ENSURE PRESCHOOL AND SCHOOL STUDENTS  
DO NOT GO HUNGRY**

The Social Development Committee is inquiring into the prevalence and effectiveness of programs in preschools and schools to ensure children and young people don't go hungry during the day. Specifically the inquiry will consider -

- a) the proportion of children and young people in South Australia who go to preschool and school without having breakfast and/or bring lunch;
- b) the academic and social impacts of preschool and school hunger;
- c) the effectiveness of the recently expanded public schools breakfast program in 2023 by the South Australian Government;
- d) ways to support families to decrease the number of children and young people going to preschool and school hungry;
- e) the operation of other national and international preschool and school meal programs and their effectiveness; and
- f) any other related matters.

The Committee invites submissions addressing the terms of reference from interested organisations and individuals. In particular submissions from professionals in education, nutrition, medical and allied health, and logistics, and non government organisations providing services in this space, are encouraged. Any person or organisation wanting to lodge a written submission or register an interest in presenting oral evidence is invited to do so by **Friday 13 June 2025**. Please note, the Committee reserves the right to determine which witnesses will be invited to provide an oral submission. Written submissions that address issues outside the terms of reference may not be accepted. Unless determined otherwise by the Committee, submissions are made publicly available on the internet.

Please address submissions and enquiries to:

The Secretary, Social Development Committee,  
e-mail: [sdc@parliament.sa.gov.au](mailto:sdc@parliament.sa.gov.au) or to GPO Box 572, Adelaide 5001  
ph: 08 82379416

Additional information on the Committee and making a submission is available at  
<https://www.parliament.sa.gov.au/committees/sdc>

**FREE ONLINE TREASURER TRAINING**

**Regional Development Australia Far North**

Are you the Treasurer for one of your local Far North SA organisations?

Have you had any finance training before?

Non Profit Training are running an **ONLINE** Finance Basics Training session for **FREE** on how to be an effective Treasurer.  
<https://nonprofittraining.com.au/>

For more information on what is included in the training and to register, head to the link below:  
<https://events.humanitix.com/finance-basics-online-training>

**FINANCE BASICS**

**Online Training**

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June**  
**6:00pm-8:30pm**

A FREE online training session on how to be an effective Treasurer for your club, group or organisation.

**What will you get?**

- 2 1/2 hour online training session.
- The processes that help a Treasurer do their job
- Learn how to develop a budget
- Understand and interpret the financial reports
- How to develop a budget
- Finance Q&A with an expert!



[Register Here](#)

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



Government of South Australia  
Department of Primary Industries and Regions

**DISCLAIMER**

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.

**ACCOUNTANT - COOBER PEDY**

**Arid Areas Accounting  
Audit & Tax  
Richard Younger**



**These services include:**

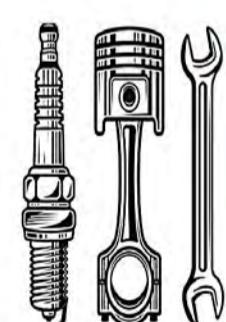
- Business Activity Statements (BAS)
- Income tax returns
- Book-keeping
- Payroll Services
- Business advice
- Audit
- Forming partnerships, trusts and companies
- Obtaining Australian Business Number (ABN)

**Mob: 0422 428 850**  
[richard@aaaaat.com.au](mailto: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"**



**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

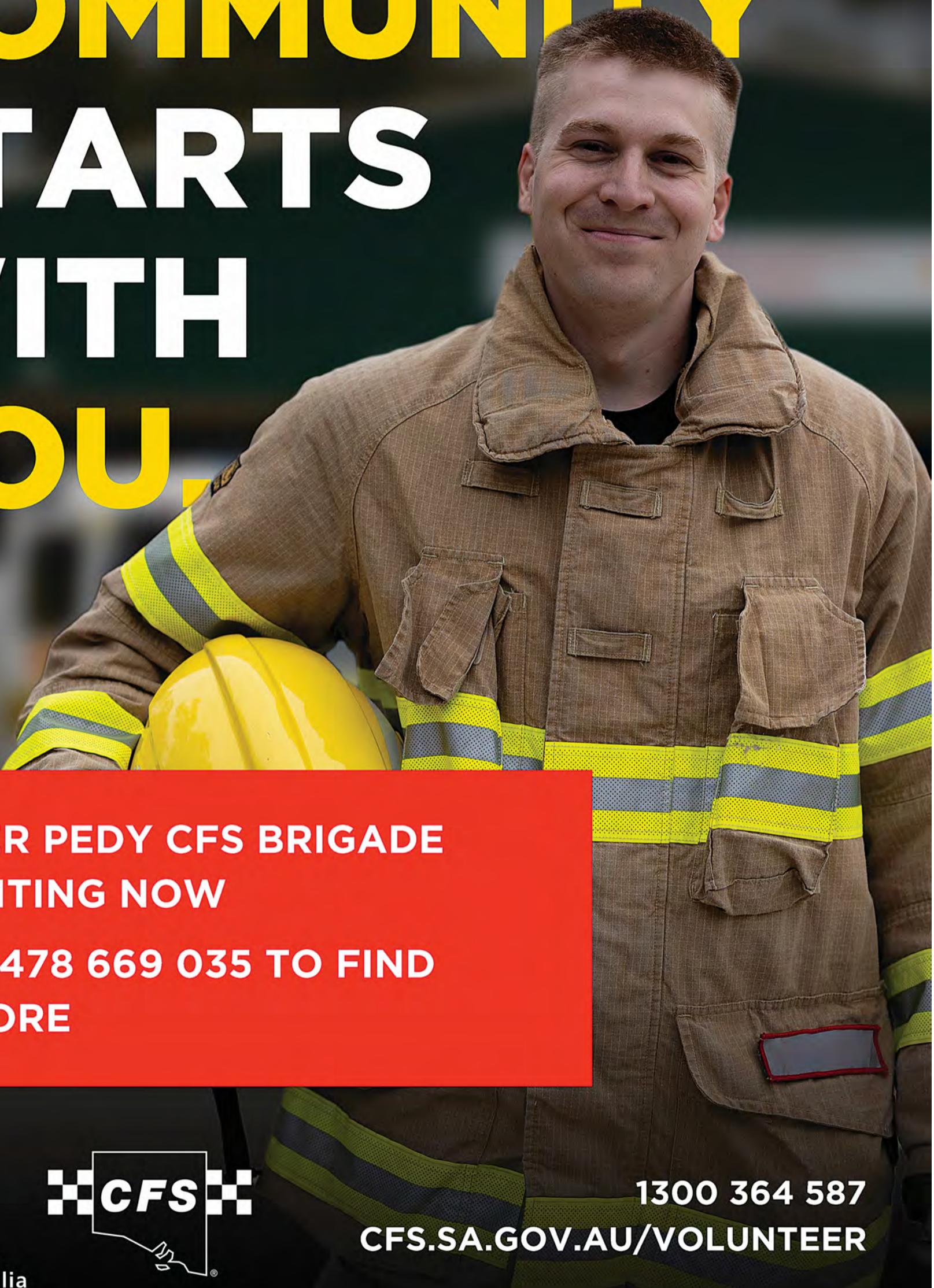
- Report growing operations
- Stop buying illegal tobacco products
- Report illegal tobacco products being sold
- Report suspicious activity.

Phone **1800 060 062** to anonymously report suspicious activity.  
Visit [ato.gov.au/illegaltobacco](http://ato.gov.au/illegaltobacco) for more information.



Australian Government  
Australian Taxation Office

# A SAFE COMMUNITY STARTS WITH YOU.



**COOBER PEDY CFS BRIGADE  
RECRUITING NOW**

**CALL 0478 669 035 TO FIND  
OUT MORE**



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

Kyam Maher MLC  
Attorney-General



## STRONGER DOMESTIC STRANGULATION LAWS BEGIN

Reforms to strengthen South Australia's domestic violence laws have now come into effect, giving prosecuting authorities greater scope to charge and secure a conviction against domestic violence perpetrators for the offence of domestic strangulation.

The legislative changes were developed in response to a review into the domestic strangulation offence which found that charges and prosecution rates of the offence were low.

The review also found there was a lack of clarity around the evidence required to prove the offence in court.

The reforms, which have come into effect this month, include a clearer and expanded definition of choking or strangling a person, as well as a new higher-penalty offence for cases where someone is rendered unconscious due to choking or strangulation in a domestic setting.

Under the new laws, choking or strangling is now defined as the applying of pressure to a person's neck to an extent that is capable of affecting their breath or flow of blood to the head. This revised definition replaces the previous definition which required proof that the victim's breathing had been restricted, but did not acknowledge the impact of strangulation on blood flow to the head, which can have even more dangerous and lasting impacts on the victim.

**Where an individual is rendered unconscious due to strangulation or choking in a domestic setting, the offender could face up to ten years in jail if convicted under this new offence.**

Kyam Maher said, "Strangulation or choking is widely recognised as a precursor to domestic homicide, which is why it is so important that we have clear, comprehensive laws that give prosecuting authorities the ability to act."

"Ensuring the threshold required to prove the offence is set at a more realistic level – and ensuring there is a clear, easily understood definition of what the offence entails – is essential if we are to treat this offence with the gravity it deserves."

"These important reforms will help us get tough on domestic violence offenders before their actions have even more devastating consequences."



WHAT'S ON COURT?

# Coober Pedy Magistrate Court

Malliotis Blvd. Coober Pedy (08) 8672 5601



Coober 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/case-lists/coober-pedy-list/>



Katrine Hildyard said, "Our community is filled with anger, frustration and sorrow at the ongoing prevalence of domestic, family and sexual violence and our government is absolutely committed to tackling domestic, family and sexual violence in every way that we can – through legislation, policy, community education and investment, and through our groundbreaking Royal Commission which provides a once in a generation opportunity to drive lasting change."

This legislative reform provides clarity and ensures our laws respond to what we know about the risks and impact of strangulation - an abhorrent act of violence.

This change demonstrates our steadfast resolve to ensure that those who experience the horror of violence have much better avenues of recourse, and sends a message to perpetrators that they will be held to account for their actions.

**Kyam Maher MLC Attorney-General  
Katrine Hildyard MP Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence**

**To contact the Courts Administration Authority (CAA) for information about courts in the Far North region of South Australia, you can use the following contact details:**

Phone: +61 8 8204 2444 or Freecall 1800 571 191.  
Email: [enquiry@courts.sa.gov.au](mailto:enquiry@courts.sa.gov.au).  
Live Chat: Available in the bottom right corner of the CourtSA website.  
Website: [www.courts.sa.gov.au](http://www.courts.sa.gov.au).

The CourtSA Registry Services team is available from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday. They can assist with inquiries, but cannot provide legal advice.

## 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



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

VN/67/0130/11

- 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:
  - Community Grants (STS-CG)
  - Grants up to \$10,000 are available for local, community-based projects and activities.
  - 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



**CLOSING  
 SOON**

## Landcare Agriculture Biodiversity in Action Grant

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.

## 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](mailto:HEALTHFMCiCCnetSA@sa.gov.au)

### Coober Pedy Area School

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

### Umoona Tjutagku Health Service

Lot 8 Umoona Rd  
(08) 8672 5255

### Housing SA

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

### Centrelink

LOT 715 Hutchison St. Coober Pedy  
13 24 68

### District Council of Coober Pedy

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

### Coober Pedy Tourist Information Cen.

LOT 773 Hutchison St  
(08) 8672 4600

### Umoona Community Council Inc

Umoona Rd  
(08) 8672 5246

### MAP/Sobering Up Centre.

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

### Umoona Tjiti Tjapu Tjuta Childcare Centre

Lot 315 Robins Blvd  
(08) 8672 5644

### Umoona Aged Care

Lot 89 Hospital Rd  
(08) 8672 5605

### National Indigenous Australians Ag. (NIAA)

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

### Far North Health Advisory Council

C/- Coober Pedy Hospital  
(08) 8672 5009

### C.P. Community Correctional Centre:

Malliotis Blvd. Coober Pedy  
(08) 8672 3091

### Uniting Country SA

Paxton Rd  
1300 067 777

### TAFE SA

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

### Coober Pedy Magistrates Court

Malliotis Blvd. Coober Pedy  
(08) 8672 5601

### Child Abuse Report Line (CARL)

131478

### Aboriginal Family Support Services

Lot 1991 Aylett Street, Coober Pedy  
(08) 8672 3066

## Coober Pedy Country Fire Service

### COMMITTEE

Captain: Interim Captain David Frost  
2nd Lieutenant: Geoff Squires  
3rd Lieutenant: Ann Gerschwitz  
Senior Firefighter: Linda Buckeridge  
Contact: [David.Frost@sacfsvolunteer.org.au](mailto: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](mailto: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: Judy Harper (30-3-25)

Contact: [cooberpedyhs@gmail.com](mailto:cooberpedyhs@gmail.com)

## DUSTY RADIO INC

### Committee 2025

#### Chairperson

Secretary: Patsy Anne Noble

Treasurer:

Public Officer: Patsy Anne Noble

Social Media Officer:

Committee member:

Committee member:

<https://www.dustyradio.com.au/>

## DIRECTORY-LOCAL ORGANISATIONS 2024/25

## 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](mailto: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

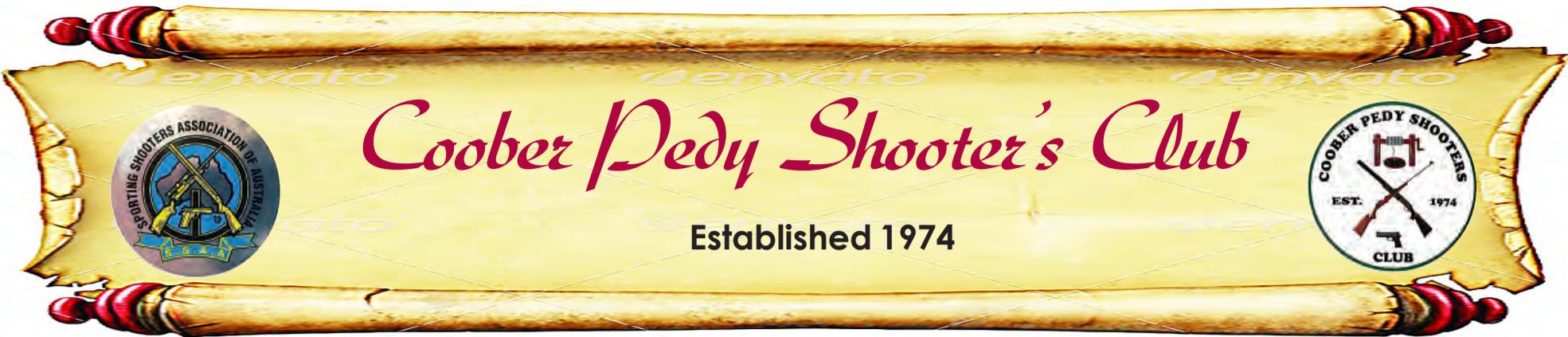
Treasurer – Emily Pennisi

#### Committee members

Catherine Bell,

Rachel Crothers,

David Hammermeister



**Coober Pedy 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 Metalic  
Silhouette
- ◆ Combine  
Service
- ◆ Black  
Powder
- ◆ Service pistol
- ◆ Shotgun
- ◆ Steel  
Challenge

**Coober Pedy  
Shooter's  
Club supports:**

- ◆ Darts
- ◆ Archery

**Starting Time: 10:00**

**AM**

**Sundays Fly Shoot**  
**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 Coober 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 [cpsc.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:cpsc.treasurer@gmail.com)

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