

FREE

COOPER PEDY CFS ANNOUNCES THE ALBERT MCCORMACK FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR 2024

Cooper Pedy Fire Brigade has awarded its second Albert McCormack Trophy.

The award is dedicated as the Albert McCormack Trophy that recognises members below an officer in going above what is expected of a firefighter and making the brigade a better place.



Ann Gerschwitz is presented with the Albert McCormack Trophy for "Firefighter of the Year" by Captain David Frost.

The 2024 Award was presented to Ann Gerschwitz at a Brigade Meeting a few weeks ago.

Ann who came to Cooper Pedy at the end of 2018, left behind a career as a Veterinary Nurse and a Kennel/Cattery Attendant.

Anne said she joined the CFS in November 2023 with encouragement from her husband Phil who's support and patience has contributed to her success as a Firefighter. "My aim was to learn new skills, contribute to the community and to make strong, like-minded friendships", she said..

"I feel satisfied that in using my new found skills, and together with my team mates we are helping to keep our community safe and protected"

"When I heard about the award I felt truly humbled. I only did what I was trained for and what I thought I was supposed to do in my roles. I felt sad that Albert wasn't here with us to share the moment. Albert came in to see us at the Brigade from time to time. I enjoyed his stories, we all did.

Albert McCormack was the first Cooper Pedy Fire Brigade Captain who served a full 25 years, from the Brigade's establishment in 1976 to 2001 as the Emergency Fire Service (EFS), now the Country Fire Service (CFS).

Albert passed away in April this year at the age of 91 and so people are slowly coming to terms with him not being around.

Ann said she highly recommends anyone interested in joining the CFS to come down to practice nights and have a chat with the Captain.

"We need to regroup with good volunteers who have a variety of skills and want to do their best for Cooper Pedy CFS, our Brigade and our Team Mates.

"We need to endeavour to make a safe future for everyone. Don't give up yet, you can do it," she said. Anne's achievements in a short time is commendable.

Cooper Pedy CFS Captain David Frost said Ann was selected for the Award, for her exceptional training and callout attendances, her strong initiative and leadership abilities that also led to her becoming appointed as a Lieutenant at the end of 2024.

We encourage locals 18+ to enquire about joining CFS. Doors are open at 6pm on Wednesday evenings.



CFS team on ANZAC Day. Raylene Hagel, Linda Madden, Ann Gerschwitz, Brian Frisby and David Frost (Cpt)

SERVING THE OPAL CAPITAL OF THE WORLD SINCE 1982

ABOUT US

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

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

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








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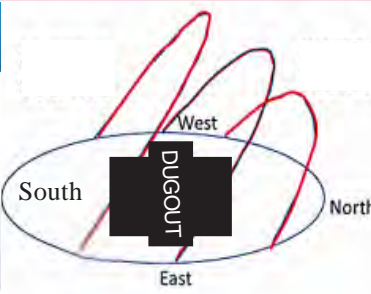
Display \$6.75 Classi \$8.35

MAILINGLIST

Send an email to be included on emailing list

7 DAYS WEATHER at COOBER PEDY Oodnadatta Tarcoola Andamooka Roxby Downs

	SAT May 24	SUN May 25	MON May 26	TUE May 27	WED May 28	THU May 29	FRI May 30							
Summary	 Mostly cloudy	 Mostly cloudy	 Windy	 Mostly cloudy	 Cloudy	 Mostly cloudy	 Mostly sunny							
Maximum	26°C	26°C	19°C	18°C	15°C	14°C	17°C							
Minimum	9°C	9°C	13°C	9°C	11°C	10°C	7°C							
Chance of Rain	5%	5%	5%	10%	20%	20%	5%							
Likely Amount	< 1mm	< 1mm	< 1mm	< 1mm	< 1mm	< 1mm	< 1mm							
UV Index	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate							
Frost Risk	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil							
	9am 3pm	9am 3pm	9am 3pm	9am 3pm	9am 3pm	9am 3pm	9am 3pm							
Wind Speed	25km/h NNW	24km/h W	12km/h NE	22km/h NNW	31km/h W	35km/h WSW	20km/h SW	17km/h S	21km/h ESE	15km/h ESE	16km/h SSE	14km/h SE	17km/h SE	16km/h SE



Winter 2025 June solstice
21 Jun 12:42 pm


Spring 2025 Sept equinox
23 Sep 4:19 am

Bi Monthly

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,
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.



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

*Over 40 Nationalities bonded by the OPAL Industry

DANGER

DON'T RUN

BEWARE!

DON'T WALK BACKWARDS

DEEP SHAFTS

UNMARKED HOLES

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

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 06 Jun 2025
Friday 20 Jun 2025
Friday 11 Jul 2025
Friday 24 July 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 23 May 2025

FOSSICKING FOR OPAL

The Rules (Repeat)

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 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 through it on stable, safe ground.

OPAL INDUSTRY NEWS

Active Claims as at May 2025

Andamooka 164; Coober Pedy



463; Mintabie 9; Stuart Creek 1



Coober Pedy POLICE CRIME REPORT -09/05/2025 til 22/05/2025



09-05-2025 – Overnight an unknown person has damaged a parked car on Hutchison Street by smashing a window however no property was stolen.

13/05/2025 - At about 1.15 pm Police and CFS responded to a report of a mattress on fire on Paxton Road. The fire had spread to a nearby shed causing some minor damage. Police ask the public to be vigilant and report suspicious behaviour to police. Anyone with information is asked to call crime stoppers on 1800 333 000.

17-05-2025 – Overnight unknown persons have broken into a business premises on Flinders Street. No property was taken during the break in, and police ask anyone

with information to call crime stoppers on 1800 333 000.

21/05/2025 - At about 6.30 pm Police and CFS responded to a report of a grass fire on the Stuart Highway. A small area of scrub was burned, and the fire was extinguished by CFS. No property was damaged in the fire. Anyone with information is asked to call crime stoppers on 1800 333 000.

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

Additional Information

For further information on opal mining & locations, go to www.energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/opal_mining or Contact: Ashley.Wood@sa.gov.au Phone: 08 8672 5800 or Kosta Christopoulos Opal Mining Registrar Email: Kosta.Christopoulos@sa.gov.au | Ph 08 86789061



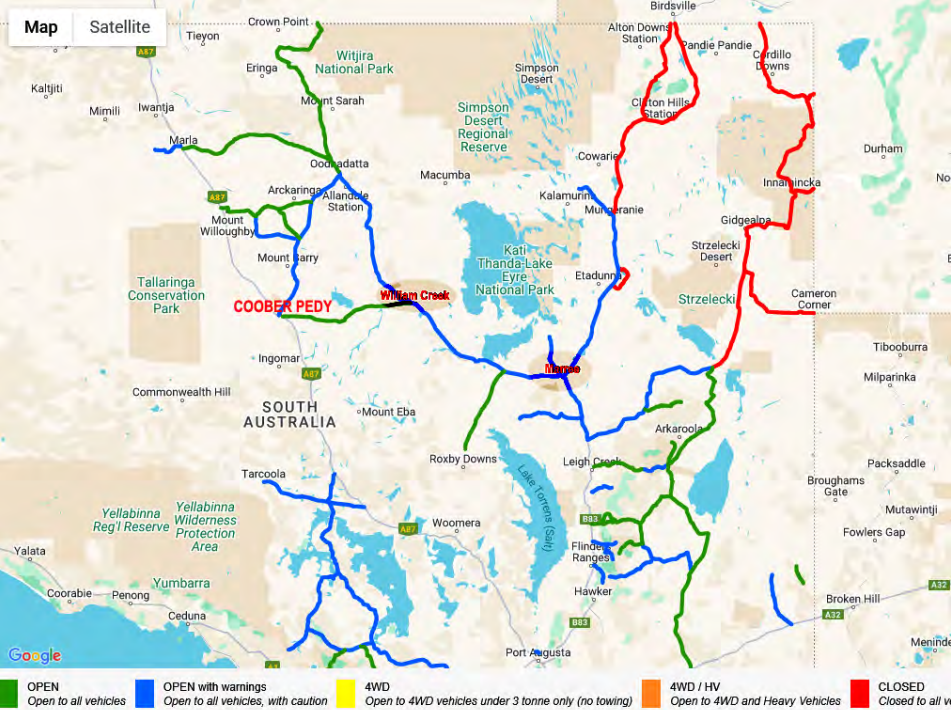
HOW TO REACH LAKE EYRE NATIONAL PARK FROM THE STUART HIGHWAY AT COOBER PEDY

Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre National Park is located about 750km north of Adelaide.

HOW TRAVELERS FROM ADELAIDE OR DARWIN ON THE STUART HIGHWAY CAN ACCESS THE LAKE EYRE N. PARK VIA COOBER PEDY

WILLIAM CREEK (approximately 60 kilometres east of the park) - Access Kati Thanda via the Oodnadatta Track and Halligan Bay Public Access Route.
MARREE (95 km north-west of the park) – Access Kati Thanda via Muloorina Station and Level Post Bay Public Access Route.

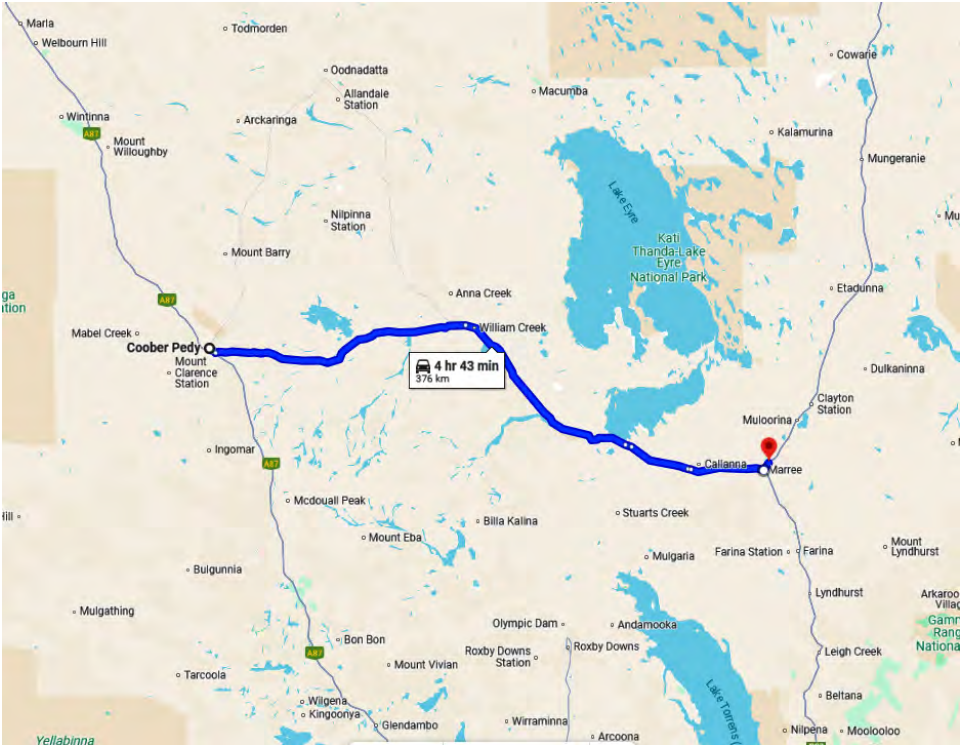
You will need a four-wheel drive to access the park, but first CHECK CURRENT ROAD CONDITIONS. See map as at 20th May, 2025, below.



TRAVELERS ON THE STUART HIGHWAY, CAN ACCESS LAKE EYRE NATIONAL PARK VIA COOBER PEDY

Top tip from Dept of Environment: Public Access Routes (also called PARs) are not part of the formal road network. They provide public access over privately owned land to key points of interest (like national parks).

It's important to remember these PARs are unsealed dirt tracks and rain can quickly change conditions, which may mean they need to close for public safety.




Distance: Coober Pedy to William Creek = 2h 16m (166 km)
Distance: Coober Pedy to Marree = 4h 43m (376 km)
Distance: Marree to William Creek = 2h 26m (204 km)

Travelers will need to plan carefully, and check fuel, food, water, and emergency supplies before heading out onto unsealed roads. Do not take risks. Volunteers at local Emergency Services also have jobs. CALL 000 for emergencies.



Lake Eyre filling up, east of Coober Pedy. Photo taken by Arid Air, located at Marree

THE OUTBACK ROADS REPORT (Dept of Transport & Infrastructure) (CURRENT at 20th May 2025)



Government of South Australia
Department for Infrastructure and Transport

**NORTHERN & WESTERN SOUTH AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK ROADS
TEMPORARY CLOSURES, RESTRICTIONS AND WARNINGS REPORT**

Issued: Friday 23 May 2025 @ 8.56 AM

A new report will be issued when any road conditions change.

This report is also available by calling 1300 361 033 or by visiting the Outback Road Warnings website at www.dit.sa.gov.au

Before travel in the outback check weather reports and forecasts for rainfall and flood warnings by visiting the Bureau of Meteorology at www.bom.gov.au

To report Road Hazards and Incidents please call
1800 018 313

Due to satellite outage, DIT outback road signs are currently not automatically updating. Please use the QR codes on the road signs where possible. Continue to refer to the Outback Road Warning page for the most up to date and accurate temporary closures, restrictions and warnings.

Roads Temporarily Closed	
ROAD SECTION	COMMENTS
Birdsville Inside Track	Due to flooding until further notice.
Birdsville Track - SA Border to Mungeranie	Moongarra Channel floodplains are flooded, and road is impassable.
Cooper Creek Ferry Crossing Road	Due to flood damage until further notice.
Cordillo Downs Road - Innamincka to Arrabury turn off	No access to Innamincka due to Cooper Creek flowing over Innamincka causeway.
Innamincka - Nappa Merrie	Road closed until further notice due to extreme amounts of floodwater making road impassable.
Merty Merty - Cameron Corner	Due to flood waters, road is now impassable approx. 9km from Strzelecki Track intersection.
Strzelecki Track - Innamincka to Merty Merty	Della Road on Strzelecki Track is impassable. Dillions Hwy is trafficable for Emergency Services & Essential Services ONLY.
Strzelecki Track - Merty Merty to Mt Hopeless	Strzelecki Creek Crossing is impassable due to floodwater. NO traffic is permitted.
4WD Only (under 3 tonne / no towing)	
ROAD SECTION	COMMENTS
Arrabury Road	Exercise extreme caution at washouts, gutters, and creek crossings. Cordillo Rd south to Innamincka still not accessible.
Cordillo Downs Road - Arrabury turn off to SA/QLD Border	Exercise extreme caution at washouts, gutters, and creek crossings. Cordillo Rd south to Innamincka still not accessible.
4WD/HV Only	
ROAD SECTION	COMMENTS



SE Qld Weather Photography
-Chris McFerran





Coober-Pedy
Community



COOBER PEDY COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, 31 May 2025, at 4pm.

JOHN'S PIZZA BAR

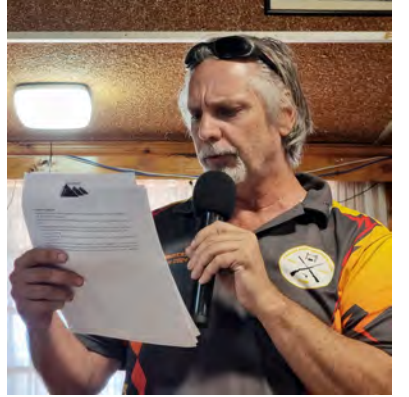
Sponsored happy-hour style, nibblies etc.

Function room seats 80

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

AGENDA

- 1.) Drive-In Consultation - Discussion
- 2.) Requests for Petition - Draft and Discussion
- 3.) Future of Coober Pedy Water Supply - Discussion
- 4.) Meeting with Administrator - Report, Discussion
- 5.) Requests to report road damages, buffel grass and vandalism of Government road signage. Contact has been made with the Dept of Infrastructure and Transport
- 6.) Other Business includes Community Champion Awards. New Raffle. Guest Speaker.



Some of the damages reported on your behalf this month - Alliance



Thanking the local community for persisting with these complaints. Roads identified are State Govt Roads, but they won't know there are issues, if someone doesn't report it. Some of these vandalised and ageing signs have been inactive for a few years. Thank you for persisting. We are working our way through the reporting process and hope to see some revitalisation soon.

Forum style discussions and problem sharing has benefited the general community whereby voices are heard, and action is pursued. The Coober Pedy Community Alliance thanks the Italian Club Committee for opening it's doors for the residents of Coober Pedy on a Saturday afternoon, once per month and supporting the day with a sausage sizzle. At the end of 2026 Administration will have been 8 years!



Administrators: Are they the Solution - or the Problem?



It is widely known in Coober Pedy that the community is deeply divided around the District Council of Coober Pedy (DCCP) and its costly and curious support for the so-called “Coober Pedy Together Group”.

One need only look at the growing number of residents who oppose the drive-in redevelopment project on the many public forums to see that opposition is strong. Anecdotaly, it would appear that the vote outweighs supporters of this DCCP-backed group by at least five to one.

The 2025–26 Annual Business Plan indicates that rates will rise by 7.5%, and water charges are expected to increase similarly. Meanwhile, expenditure on staffing and operations appears unchanged. (No reduction on expenditure!) In effect, residents are being asked to pay more, but for what?

On page 28 of the plan, under Economic and Community Development, it is stated that Council supports the Coober Pedy Together initiative because it aligns with a vision to “bring change, lift community spirit, and create a sense of purpose.”

While this might appeal to Administrators, facilitators, CEOs and a minority group, many residents are left feeling that this vision is not shared widely across the town. The majority of people living here already value our community and our way of life. That’s why we have stayed so long and invested here!

Page 28 also states:

YOUR RATES AT A GLANCE .

HOW WILL \$100 OF YOUR MUNICIPAL RATES BE SPENT.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
(Viz Michael Edgecomb)

"Economic & Community Development - \$3.31 per hundred."

This appears to imply a possible donation from DCCP or should I say, community funds to the Together Group for them to pay their facilitator.

Please publicly correct that if it is wrong. How sure is the council that this form of consultation will be understood by a predominantly low socio-economic community where English is not necessarily everyone's first language?

How will our multicultural and indigenous communities translate this? There is no explanation or translation for that set of figures on page 28.

This raises concern about the DCCP’s role in pushing a particular agenda. Is it genuinely community-driven, or is it orchestrated by a small group with support from Administrators and Council staff?

It is difficult to avoid the impression that the "Together Group" is more a product of DCCP's bureaucrat's making than a reflection of community consensus.

The DCCP “propaganda machine” can easily be seen in full force. **Q.** What difference have the “together group” made? **A.** None. Refurbish the drive-in. That will solve all our problems!?

Just because DCCP Administration has endorsed the “Together Group” does not mean the majority of the community has. This is not a dictatorship. The division this has caused is arguably greater than that surrounding the transitional camp proposal, which was overwhelmingly rejected by residents in a previous meeting of electors (94% opposed).

The message then was clear: the community must be heard — and respected. A significant cost to both the State Government and our Council, could have been avoided if the community had been genuinely consulted earlier.

The same could happen again. If a public vote were held today on the Together Group’s direction, I believe the outcome would again reflect the will of the wider community. The Drive-in proposal should be voted on in a public arena to see what the community wants not discussed behind closed doors and not controlled by one group who claim they represent the town.

Adding to the confusion are recent social media posts by two supporters regarding a \$7.5 million plan for the drive-in. Repeated claims are made that the funding will come entirely from outside sources, with no long-term cost to the community. That is difficult to believe.

Q. Are there any production companies currently in Coober Pedy? **A.** No.

Q When do the “Together Group” expect a production company to arrive in the near future? **A.** They have not got a clue. The whole thing is speculation.

Let’s imagine the funding is secured. The original building is demolished (as previously claimed by Michael Edgecomb, although later denied under pressure but claimed to be an ‘ICON’ by a group member, very confusing), and volunteers are lined up to support incoming film crews.

Construction of a new facility begins, at a price that likely far exceeds \$7.5million. A quote on the project from years ago. All to build a glorified canteen in the middle of the outback when a production company decides to make a film of some kind in Coober Pedy.

What is the ambition here “BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME”. This is not a Kevin Costner Movie. Do you all remember “FIELD OF DREAMS”?

Here it is in a nut shell, they got their funding, built their project, have their volunteer workforce all managed by Michael Edgcomb in a paid position.

Volunteers chomping at the bit, deep fryers ready, bain-marie's on, coffee machines boiling and waiting for all the production companies to come, and they don’t show up. What then?

Do you believe they are going to get ongoing funding in that situation? I think not.

Then what happens to the volunteers, the facilities, the equipment, and the ongoing maintenance? Who will pay then? The Ratepayer will, just like we’re paying \$36,000 annually for the basketball courts that we were not consulted on then either!.

A costly legacy left by previous Administrator Geoff Sheridan and current Administrators John Moyle, Erica Vickery and BHP.

Now Conlon, Moyle and Vickery along with the “Together Group “and maybe BHP (based on Social Media posts by a lone together-group follower) want to ignore the community and plow ahead with the drive-in fiasco.

There is a difference between some of the people who live in Coober Pedy, and those who pay rates. That shouldn't be taken lightly. No ADMINISTRATORS, no FACILITATORS, no CEOs, no renters, no Government departments, no Non Profits, no Churches, and definitely a Mine 100 klm down the road, do not pay one red cent in rates to support this town, so why have they all got their mouths open?

Don’t forget they (Administrators) have endorsed the “Together Group”.

Streaming services, artificial intelligence, and digital effects mean film production doesn’t necessarily need physical locations anymore. People can now access entire film libraries at home for a monthly fee, so how many will pay \$100–\$200 for a drive-in experience? What percentage of locals could afford this?

Global trends, like U.S. tariffs on foreign films only compound the uncertainty of this plan. Yet despite these concerns, some supporters claim private funding will save the project, or that government funding isn’t even being pursued. It’s all very vague.

It will be the ratepayer who will carry the burden. In a recent report to the DCCP Audit Committee by Chevahn Hoad, it was acknowledged that the Council is insolvent, but continues to operate with government support (Non-Financial) “to keep it alive”. In that light, one must question the wisdom of forming ‘Groups’ and paying facilitators to champion projects that have not been widely endorsed and have divided a community.

What is truly being built here? And at what cost, both financial and social?

I think that about sums it up.

George Naumovic
Ratepayer

DRAFT Submission - District Council of Coober Pedy RE: 2025–26 Draft Annual Business Plan

DRAFT Submission - District Council of Coober Pedy RE: 2025–26 Draft Annual Business Plan
From: John Smith;
To Whom It May Concern,

I write as a long-term ratepayer of the District Council of Coober Pedy to express serious concerns regarding the 2025–26 Draft Annual Business Plan.

My first concern is about Council's potential trading while insolvent. It is troubling and stressful on our community that Council continues to operate with persistent operating deficits and a working capital balance that is only marginally above the minimum threshold.

While the plan outlines a target of \$0.5M in working capital, this is far too low given the scale of Council's operations and the essential services it provides. If a single critical asset fails, for example, in the electricity or water supply, the Council may not have the liquidity to respond.

In the case of the Water Supply, the council is putting the community at serious risk of not having access to water. The council's business plan does not include a contingency plan for such a life-threatening emergency.

This raises legitimate risk concerns. This would be a breach of fiduciary responsibility and places both the community and the Council at legal and financial risk. I request that the administrators seek urgent legal and financial advice on this matter and disclose this risk more transparently in the Business Plan.

My second concern is council use of consultants: Has the council thought of turning it's books over to the Auditor General for another inspection?

Ratepayers have limited tolerance for the level of spending on external consultants. This pattern of external spending continues year after year, and yet little progress is made on actual service improvements or debt reduction.

In a financially distressed Council, every dollar spent on consultants is a dollar not spent on roads, waste, or water.

It seems clear that the Administrators believe that they lack the skills for their positions, but isn't hiring consultants a dubious way of compensating given that so far nothing has been produced in 7 years to improve council's bottom line?

My third and a most concerning point is the water supply risks due to remoteness.

The Council's acknowledgment that the water supply should be transferred to a third party highlights the unsustainable burden placed on a remote local government to manage critical utility services, and in particular the burden of management on unqualified public servants during the last 6 or more years where a rapid decline in maintenance and service is noted.

Council however has failed to provide cost breakdowns making any worthwhile submission, a time wasting exercise!

The plan admits that most of the plant and infrastructure used in water delivery are beyond their useful life. Yet capital investment remains low, and no contingency plan is clearly outlined if a major water asset fails.

Council would be well advised to actively engage with the State Government for a clear exit strategy and transfer of this responsibility to a properly resourced authority.

A fourth point that stands out is insufficient funding to deliver adequate services where the budget plainly admits that Council cannot currently provide adequate services in several areas; from waste management and road maintenance to tourism and childcare.

As a resident, I see this every day: potholes go unfixed, essential community services are cut back to the point that buffel grass a known fire hazzard is suffocating the town, while staffing appears stretched thin.

This is particularly concerning given that rates are increasing by 7.5%, yet services are diminishing or stagnating and those charged with the responsibility are for the most part never on-site.

Ratepayers should not bear the financial burden for a system that is structurally broken and here negligence on a grand scale might be argued.

There needs to be an open and honest discussion with the community about what services can realistically be sustained and what needs urgent external support.

My fifth point is a serious and ongoing concern shared by many in the community is the Council's continued decision to engage an expensive consultant for **Economic and Community Development**, despite consistent and clear community opposition to this approach.

This decision is particularly questionable given that the Federal Government already funds the highly effective Regional Development Australia (RDA) Far North, which delivers tailored economic development support across the region.

For a modest annual membership fee, our community benefits from RDA Far North's proven ability to co-design impactful, locally relevant programs in collaboration with industry, Aboriginal groups, small businesses, many community groups and other stakeholders.

Instead of leveraging this existing, credible regional body, Council appears to be duplicating services at significantly higher cost — with little evidence of outcomes or accountability.

There is also growing concern that Council is undermining what should be a genuinely community-led economic development process. Programs like Coober Pedy Together have the potential to build local capacity, but instead appear to be centralised and controlled by Council staff or external consultants, limiting genuine grassroots input.

Given the estimate from the Annual Business Plan that \$3.31 of every \$100 in municipal rates is spent on Economic and Community Development, I request full transparency on how these funds — approximately \$111,000 — are being budgeted to be used.

Specifically:

- **What projects or programs are being funded under this allocation?**
- **What are the costs for each project?**
- **Who is responsible for delivering them (individuals, staff, consultants or other)?**
- **What fees or salaries are they receiving?**
- **What performance measures (KPIs) or outcomes are being tracked?**

This information must be made public before the budget is adopted.

In concluding my assessment, I also reiterate the following points.

- **The Council must openly address whether it is trading insolvent or approaching that point.**
- **There should be greater accountability around consultant spending, with measurable outcomes.**

****Accurate Costings on all of these projects must be published.**

- **If the State Government refuses to intervene to manage water supply, given the critical risks posed by our remote location, then a third party must be sought as a matter of extreme urgency.**
- **Rate increases must be matched with genuine service improvements, not simply used to plug recurring deficits.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. I trust the Council and Administrators will take these concerns seriously and work collaboratively with the community toward realistic and sustainable solutions.

As of November 2026, eight years (all up) of Administration inflicted on a small community, that was intended to produce solutions long before now!

Sincerely, John Smith
Lot 007 Sunshine Blvd
PO Box 007 Coober Pedy SA 5723
Email: 007@zmail.com



THUMBS UP



to Oliver at OME

Oliver Grievson is the man behind the tyres at OME. Flat tyres being a sure thing for motorists, sooner or later. About a week ago one of our local residents had the unpleasant and inconvenient experience of waking up to a flat tyre. A quick call to a friend brought out the recommendation of Oliver.

The local resident rang Oliver, thinking ahead to what was likely to be an unpleasant ordeal whereby the tyre would have to be delivered to Oliver for repair. Not so!! Oliver has a system and a motto "Have tools - will travel". Sort of like in the old westerns .. "Have gun, will travel". Those boys got the job done!!

Oliver arrived within about 20 minutes of the phone call, with all the gear required for, not just a tyre change but compressed air as well, and then a repair job back at OME. "Oliver is a professional", said the resident. "He simply looked at the tyre, muttered Yup, selected his tools, changed the tyre, filled it with air, and we were all back at work in less that 20 minutes".

"Thank you Oliver and thank you OME. It's a great service that helps us all get back to work without losing too much time." Isn't that what community is about, reliable support industries around us!



Oliver arrives to change a tyre el-prompto



Selecting the right wheel brace, and the jack



Setting up the air compressor



No fuss, we'll all be back at work in no time.



Air cap on, and you can pick up tyre in a day or so.

VOLUNTEERS AT COPLEY IN THE FLINDERS RANGES WORK TO ENSURE PROTECTION FOR NATIVE FLORA

CELEBRATING AUTUMN SPLENDOUR IN THE COPLEY BOTANICAL GARDENS



You may have noticed the sea of bright green tips in new growth emerging on the many lovely plants that are going gang-busters in the Copley botanical gardens since the beginning of autumn.

Much hard work has been done by volunteers to keep the plants alive over the blistering summer as well as dealing with the ongoing and constant destruction from wandering horses and sheep. Plans to secure funding to erect a perimeter fence are underway that will include pedestrian access gates. New water tanks are to be installed, as well as establishing a picnic area under the lovely shady gum tree at the rear of the public toilets and much more!

It's so lovely to wander around the meandering pathways and take in the views of the beautiful cutaway in the shelter of the already established trees. Park benches have been arranged to offer different outlooks. Large stones and logs have been collected and placed around the plants providing screening for vulnerable plants and habitat for small animals and lizards.



Recently, many new species have been added. These are seedlings that have been cultivated from locally collected seed and grown in the community gardens nursery. The autumn growing conditions have been ideal, enabling small ground-covers and dormant seeds to sprout.

Volunteers are also trialling direct seeding which allow seeds to grow without the need for added water. A quandong seedling was spotted sprouting from the ground recently, and small eucalyptus trees have taken hold around the little water catchment by the highway. The plants and soil are gathering lively momentum with the help of mulch and the micro-ecology of the area is being revived.

Thanks to the ongoing dedication and effort of volunteers, the botanical gardens is set to become a delightful feature of the town. Once established, it will be draw card for plant lovers visiting the Northern Flinders Ranges and add to the growing number of focal points in the area.

Please drop in and enjoy your local botanical gardens!

IS YOUR ASSOCIATION INC UP TO DATE WITH CBS?

Consumer and Business Services (CBS) regulates incorporated associations in South Australia. This includes administering the Associations Incorporation Act 1985.

Consumer and Business Services (CBS) has identified a number of Coober Pedy incorporated associations that may no longer be operating but are still registered.

If you would like to revive an association that is on the list below, please contact associations@sa.gov.au and CBS can assist with providing the necessary exemptions to get the association back on track.

Alternatively, if the association is still operating, please make sure your public officer details are up to date with CBS.

You can check that through the Associations online register and update your public officer details through an online form. For further information, please call 131 882 (Option 7).

Possibly Defunct Coober Pedy Associations

- COOBER PEDY ABORIGINAL HOUSING SOCIETY INCORPORATED
- UNITED BOWLING & SPORTING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
- COOBER PEDY COMMUNITY AUXILIARY INCORPORATED
- COOBER PEDY MINERS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
- COOBER PEDY LITTLE ATHLETICS CENTRE INCORPORATED
- COOBER PEDY WOMENS GROUP INCORPORATED
- COOBER PEDY MOTOR CLUB INCORPORATED
- COOBER PEDY JUDO CLUB INCORPORATED
- COOBER PEDY AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB INCORPORATED
- THE REMOTE AGED HOUSING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
- SOUTH AUSTRALIAN OPAL MINERS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
- THE SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH AND SCHOOL COMMUNITY 'HOLY PROPHET ELIJAS' AT COOBER PEDY INCORPORATED
- COOBER PEDY AMATEUR BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
- COOBER PEDY RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
- COOBER PEDY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE INCORPORATED
- COOBER PEDY FOOTBALL CLUB INCORPORATED
- COOBER PEDY MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY FORUM INCORPORATED
- COOBER PEDY DARTS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
- COOBER PEDY COMMUNITY & REGIONAL CHILDREN'S CENTRE INCORPORATED
- COOBER PEDY SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
- MAMA MUKULYA TJITJIKU (CONCERNED FATHERS GROUP) INCORPORATED
- JUBAL-ATION MINISTRIES INCORPORATED
- COOBER PEDY REGIONAL SPORTS & RECREATIONAL ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
- COOBER PEDY YOUTH SECTOR NETWORK INCORPORATED
- COOBER PEDY DESERT DRAGONS GYMNASTICS CLUB INCORPORATED
- KUPI KUPI COOBER PEDY GLIDING CLUB INCORPORATED
- COOBER PEDY REGIONAL EDUCATION FUND INCORPORATED
- COOBER PEDY KARATE CLUB INCORPORATED
- FRENCH IN COOBER PEDY INCORPORATED
- THE COOBER PEDY JUBILEE 150/BICENTENNIAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE INCORPORATED
- COOBER PEDY ANTIKINYRI BRETHREN FELLOWSHIP INCORPORATED
- COOBER PEDY NETBALL ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

LAKE EYRE IS NOW AT LEAST 80% COVERED IN WATER.



SE Qld Weather Photography -Chris McFerran

Kati Thanda -Lake Eyre video update. Belt Bay is filling fast as floodwaters rapidly spread out across Lake Eyre. It's estimated to reach a depth of 6mt.



THE ITALIAN CLUB COOBER PEDY PRESENTS

OPAL FEST 2025

THE OFFICIAL AFTER PARTY

WITH SPECIAL GUEST DJ SUPERSTAN

SAT 14TH JUNE 2025

DOORS OPEN FROM 6PM - LATE

ENTRY FEE'S: FREE FOR MEMBERS | \$10 FOR NON MEMBERS

THE 36th COOBER PEDY OPAL FESTIVAL



13th - 15th June, 2025

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



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



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 JUNE 2025, the Far North and Flinders regions of South Australia will host a variety of events,
including the Coober Pedy Opal Festival, Opal Evolution, Andamooka Arts Festival a
gymkhana/motokhana in Marree.....

.... 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, 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.

JUNE 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

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

Andamooka Opal Classic
Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th June 2025
Andamooka Shooting Range, Andamooka

Roxby Downs Open Championships
Date: TBA
Roxby Downs Golf Club, Roxby Downs

COOBER PEDY
36TH OPAL FESTIVAL

SAVE THE DATE
13-14-15 JUNE 2025

SCAN FOR MORE INFO
@COOBERPEDYSA

Pichi Richi Marathon
Sunday 29th June 2025

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

Andamooka Opal Evolution Festival
October Long Weekend Saturday, October
4th to Monday, October 6th
Andamooka Postcode 5722

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



PUBLIC NOTICE



District Council of Coober Pedy Public Consultation

The District Council of Coober Pedy invites feedback regarding the **Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2025-26**

It is the community of Coober Pedy's opportunity to have their say about the services and activities Council will deliver over the next 12 months and to what level we provide them before the final budget is adopted.

Community consultation will commence at 9am Thursday 15 May 2025 and close at 5pm on Friday 6 June 2025.

Written submissions which must be received by 5.00pm on 6 June 2025 can be made by:

- Emailing dccp@cpccouncil.sa.gov.au;
- Visiting www.cooberpedy.sa.gov.au

- Mail to Attn: Chief Executive Officer District Council of Coober Pedy PO Box 425 Coober Pedy SA 5723 or
- Dropping them directly into our office at Lot 773 Hutchison Street Coober Pedy.

Please Note: **verbal submissions will now be received at a Special Meeting of Council being held on 11 June 2025 at 2pm** in the Council Chambers (NOT at the Ordinary Meeting of Council in June)

Following the completion of the community consultation, the Annual Business Plan may be updated but will be submitted to Council for endorsement at the Meeting of Council to be held on Wednesday 25 June 2025.

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 17th 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 ½ 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: lp@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

POSITION VACANT

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

Cook
Coober Pedy Hospital
Ref No: 895402

www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/careers

i can

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



ACCOUNTANT - COOBER PEDY

Arid Areas Accounting
Audit & Tax
Richard Younger



These services include:

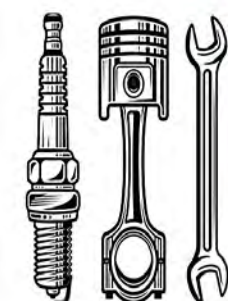
- Business Activity Statements (BAS)
- Income tax returns
- Book-keeping
- Payroll Services
- Business advice
- Audit
- Forming partnerships, trusts and companies
- Obtaining Australian Business Number (ABN)

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"



RED DIRT CP PTY LTD

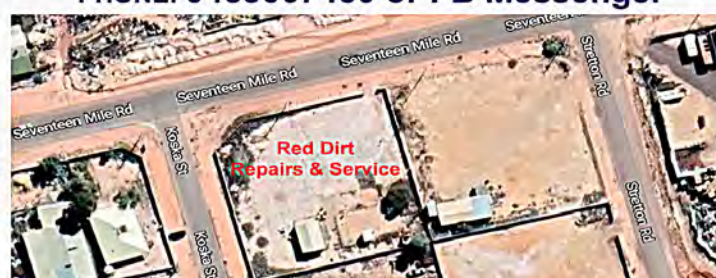
Automotive Repair Shop

Coober Pedy & Odnadatta

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

Guardian Interlock Service Centre



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

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:
 - 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

The SA Power Networks Community Grants program is back in 2025!

Applications are welcome from not-for profit organisations, registered charities, schools or community groups who are seeking support up to \$5,000.



We believe these grants might be of interest to members in your local council community. We are more than happy for you to share the program through any of your communications to ensure we can help get these grants out to the local community.

Applications for this year's round are now open and **close 9am, Tuesday 17 June 2025.**

We are again seeking to empower activities, programs or events which will help make a positive impact in South Australia. Our focus areas for 2025 are:

Growing a sustainable SA
Fostering Reconciliation & Cultural Understanding

We are committed to supporting many different community projects, however, please be aware that our target areas may vary each year, which could affect eligibility for the program.

Applications are welcome from not-for profit organisations, registered charities, schools or community groups who are seeking support up to \$5,000.

For more information on the application process, FAQ's and more details on the focus areas, please visit

<https://www.sapowernetworks.com.au/communitygrants>



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/illegal tobacco for more information.



Australian Government
Australian Taxation Office



WILL YOU STEP UP
TO PROTECT **YOUR**
COMMUNITY?

We're run by volunteers (not full-time staff),
so here is the best way to get in touch:

COOPER PEDY CFS BRIGADE

-  David Frost 0478 669 035
-  david.frost2@sacfsvolunteer.org.au
-  502 Hutchinson Street,
Cooper Pedy SA 5723

OUR TRAINING TIMES

Every Wednesday night.
Doors open at 6pm, training starts 6:30pm

We look forward to chatting with you soon.

1300 364 587 | cfs.sa.gov.au/volunteer



A **SAFE**
COMMUNITY
STARTS
WITH
YOU.

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
COUNTRY FIRE SERVICE
IS **RECRUITING NOW.**

Please note:

All training and protective clothing is provided by the CFS. All volunteers are required to consent to a Nationally Coordinated Criminal History Check. We will provide consent forms for this free-of-charge service.



Government
of South Australia



VOLUNTEER FOR
A **LIFE-CHANGING**
EXPERIENCE.

It takes a mighty team of all
different ages, genders and abilities
— and we welcome everyone!

WHY VOLUNTEER?

You'll be equipped to help your community when
it's needed most. A volunteer role opens you to
training in life-changing skills, including:

-  **Basic
firefighting**
-  **Structural
firefighting**
-  **Mapping**
-  **Communications**
-  **Leadership**
-  **Teamwork**
-  **First aid**
-  **Operational
support**

WHAT DO WE NEED FROM YOU?

- The desire to help protect your community as part of a dedicated team.
- Willingness to be trained in providing assistance in emergency situations and/or providing support to the team on the ground

HOW MUCH TIME DOES IT TAKE?

Cooper Pedy CFS trains on Wednesday nights each week. Doors open 6pm and training begins at 6:30pm.

We encourage you to attend training regularly to stay familiar with equipment, skills and your team.

Many CFS volunteers also work full-time or part-time. Employers often release CFS volunteers from work to respond to emergencies as they arise. If your employer is unable to release you, you can commit to volunteering outside of work hours.

ABOUT THE SOUTH
AUSTRALIAN **COUNTRY**
FIRE SERVICE (CFS)

The CFS is a volunteer-based fire and emergency service dedicated to protecting life, property and environmental assets in regional and semi-metropolitan South Australia.

We couldn't do it without people like you!
With approximately 14,000 volunteers, the CFS cares for more than 425 communities across the state through a range of fire and emergency services.

Our volunteers are people from all walks of life, with one extraordinary difference — they step up to regularly commit their time and energy to assist their communities when it's needed most.

YOUR COMMUNITY COUNTS
ON THE CFS FOR:

- Suppressing bushfires
- Suppressing structural fires
- Motor vehicle accidents
- Hazardous materials incidents
- Advice on building fire safety
- Risk and response planning
- Community education and awareness programs

Our volunteers can also play vital roles through:

- Administration
- Radio operations
- Finance
- Mapping
- Logistics
- Brigade and group meeting participation
- Equipment and brigade maintenance
- Organising cadet programs

New and familiar faces appointed to the Outback Communities Authority

The Outback Communities Authority (the Authority) is pleased to announce that Jan Ferguson OAM has been re-appointed as the Presiding Member for a further three years.

Jan has been a staunch advocate for outback communities throughout her career, and a strong and effective driver of Authority priorities and activities over the past three years.

We would like to offer our congratulations to Jan for this achievement, and look forward to another productive term. Congratulations are also due to Leila Day from Andamooka, who has been re-appointed for a further term.

The Authority is pleased to welcome Theres Bertram as the newest addition to the board. Theres has held the role of Secretary of the Copley & Districts Progress Association since 2018. During this time, the Progress Association significantly improved its town facilities and open spaces, including an upgrade to the Community Hall, installation of half-size basketball court, repairs to the Tourist Shelters and the establishment of a Community and Botanic Garden. Theres works in health and safety in the aviation sector and has previous experience in manufacturing, health and hospitality organisations.

We would also like to thank Ngatina Sylvanius for her service as a board member for the past three years. Ngatina has recently taken up employment and residence in another part of the state, and we wish her all the best with this new chapter in her life.


The Outback Communities Authority provides services across the unincorporated areas of South Australia, an area that covers around 63 percent of the State and has a population of approximately 4000 people. The Authority manages a wide range of facilities from airstrips to public toilets, and provides funding to communities for infrastructure, sports and arts and cultural activities.

Jan Ferguson OAM, Presiding Member for the Outback Communities Authority said, "I am honoured to be appointed to this role for another term, and look forward to continuing the important initiatives we have developed over the past few years."


"Outback SA is a remarkable region with a unique and dynamic population, it is a privilege to serve this region and its people through the Outback Communities Authority."

Theres Bertram said, "Over 35 years of volunteering for community organisations has given me a deep understanding of the challenges outback communities face and the positive impact vibrant and connected communities can have."


"I am very excited about this opportunity to join the Outback Communities Authority board in supporting outback communities in South Australia.



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

Coober Pedy Magistrate Court

Malliotis Blvd. Coober Pedy (08) 8672 5601



**Coober Pedy
Sitting dates in
MAY 2025**

Monday 28 July
Tuesday 29 July
Wednesday 30 July
Thursday 31 July

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/>



**AT COOBER PEDY; VIC DRIVER FOUR TIMES
OVER THE LIMIT; INSTANT LOSS OF LICENCE.**



RBT & RDT IN THE AREA

23 May 2025 5:33pm A Victorian man has been caught four times over the limit at Coober Pedy.

Just after 1.30pm on Friday 23 May, police stopped a MG hatchback at a static driver testing site on Hutchison Street. The driver was breath tested and allegedly produced a blood alcohol reading of 0.215 grams.

A 50-year-old man from Victoria was reported for drink driving and issued with a twelve-month instant loss of licence. He will be summonsed to appear in court at a later date.

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.
Live Chat: Available in the bottom right corner of the CourtSA website: 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.

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: Judy Harper (30-3-25)
Contact: 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/

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