

# ONE NATION BRANDON TURTON - EMBRACED WHOLEHEARTEDLY BY FAR NORTH LOCALS

Brandon Turton, One Nation SA candidate for the Seat of Stuart, is a proud South Australian standing up for regional communities.

Following his recent visit to the Far North, Coober Pedy on Sunday, and Roxby Downs and Andamooka on Saturday, Brandon said regional South Australians deserve better.

Brandon has worked as an engineer in heavy industry and understands firsthand the challenges facing mining, manufacturing and agriculture.

"Right now, families and small businesses across regional SA are being crushed by the cost of living, high power prices and years of government neglect," he said.

"Too many people in regional communities feel like second-class citizens. Our roads and infrastructure are underfunded, our industries are struggling, and too many locals feel like they have been left behind."

"That is not acceptable, and it is why I am standing up".

"I strongly support One Nation SA's plan to help coastal communities recover from the algal bloom disaster. Recreational fishers play a vital role in local economies, and locking them out only hurts towns that are already doing it tough."

"I am also a strong advocate for lowering energy prices and making power reliable again. One Nation SA's plan for a new coal-fired power station at Port Augusta is about protecting jobs and keeping industries like lead smelting in Port Pirie and steelmaking in Whyalla viable. Without affordable energy, these jobs simply will not survive."

Brandon is calling on the people of Stuart to take a stand against government neglect and career politicians who put corporate and city interests first.

"I am here to fight for our communities, our jobs and our future, and to make sure regional South Australians finally have a real voice in Parliament."

**Arriving in Coober Pedy on Sunday**, Brandon said he found something special, a town built on grit.

"Built by people who endure the harsh desert heat, who adapt, who survive, and who thrive in conditions most would never choose. The resilience here is not just impressive, it is inspiring."

"That toughness, that independence, that quiet determination, it embodies the Australian spirit. It is the spirit One Nation SA stands for and fights to protect."

"This journey reminded me that our state is not just geography. It is people. It is character. And it is worth standing up for."

Brandon visited the Old Timers Mine Museum and thanks Nicko Farantouris and George Rosewarne for hosting his visit.

"It was wonderful to see Coober Pedy's history so well preserved. The museum shows what this town was built on and why it is the Opal Capital of the World."

He also travelled out to the Olympic Opal Field, where he observed the Bulovic family working with their excavator from atop a sandstone ledge.

"Thank you to Roger and Dean Bulovic, George Christiansos, and George Rosewarne for their knowledgeable explanations and introduction to the various opal mining techniques."



At the Old Timers Mine (Museum) Chris Farantouris (OTM), Rob Gigos (CP Post Office), Nicko Farantouris (Old Timers Mine), Brandon Turton (One Nation), George Rosewarne (CP Community Alliance)



The Old Timers Mine was an eyeopener for Brandon, but he soon got the feel of early existence on the South Australian Opal Fields.



For lunch on Sunday the One Nation entourage attended the Coober Pedy Shooters Club, where Brandon met with members over a pizza lunch and discussed a range of topics from local issues to general politics.

"It was very clear from conversations with residents at the Shooters Club that the regions have been neglected for a long time. Remote residents say they watch city politicians focus on shoring up future metropolitan votes throughout their 4 year term in office and showing very little interest in visiting the remote-areas."

After the visit to the Shooters Club where Brandon participated in a couple of pistol exercises, the tour moved across to the RSL to meet more of the locals and enjoy a sausage sizzle.



Above at the RSL: Miriam Kammerman (Treasurer), Brandon Turton (One Nation), Barney Boswell (Conducting the ODE), Raylene Hagel, Committee Member

Brandon met quietly with local residents during the afternoon and evening discussing their views on the current state of politics in Australia among other issues. The general consensus being that Australian leaders need to get back to basic democracy, and start putting Australia's needs first.

**Continued inside**

## ABOUT US

**Coober Pedy Regional Times** became a FREE Newspaper in 2006 and increased its distribution to 5,000 hard copies + and simultaneously provided a **Free Online Digital Newspaper**, to accommodate the new digital era.

Distribution covers a vast area including World Wide Web; nearby communities and towns, social media, website and mailing lists. At the end of 2025 the Social Media following alone totalled over 17,000.

**The COOBER PEDY REGIONAL TIMES is 'WORLD WIDE'**  
 READ Newspaper FREE online at:  
<https://cooberpedytimes.com/>

**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 \$6.85 Classi \$8.55

**MAILING LIST**  
 Send an email to be included on an emailing list

**Next PUBLICATION DATE**  
**Friday 27 February 2026**

**DEMOCRACY...** 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:** Can 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.

**Groups & Sponsorships:** 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.

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

**Advertisers** may be entitled to editorials

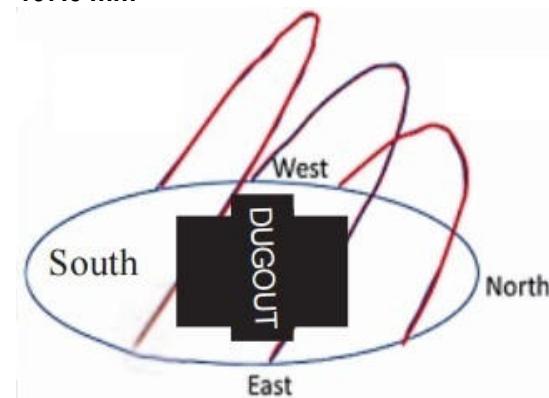
**Sponsorship** for clubs or community programs is by arrangement.



## Coober Pedy 7 Day Forecast

	Today	Sat Feb 14	Sun Feb 15	Mon Feb 16	Tue Feb 17	Wed Feb 18	Thu Feb 19
Summary							
Maximum	27°C	33°C	36°C	37°C	37°C	35°C	30°C
Minimum	21°C	20°C	21°C	25°C	26°C	22°C	24°C
Chance of Rain	13.5%	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%	10.2%	7.8%	10.5%
Rain Amount	0.0 mm	0.0 mm	0.0 mm	0.0 mm	0.0 mm	0.0 mm	0.0 mm
UV Index	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low
Fire Danger Rating	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Frost Risk	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Wind Speed	14.8km/h	14.8km/h	15.1km/h	20.2km/h	16.7km/h	23.6km/h	22.5km/h
Wind Direction	SE	SE	E	ENE	ESE	S	SSE
Relative Humidity	39.4%	31.4%	26.3%	45.9%	43.3%	42.5%	38.8%

**RAINFALL:** Current Total (2025): 98.8 mm.  
 Long-Term Annual Average: Approximately 144 to 157.5 mm



Autumn Equinox on March 20,  
 Winter Solstice on June 21,  
 Spring Equinox on September 23,  
 Summer Solstice on December 22

**DISCLAIMER:** Opinions and letters published in The Coober Pedy Regional Times are not necessarily the views of the Editor, or Publisher. The Coober Pedy Regional Times reserves the right to edit or omit copy, in accordance with newspaper policies. Letters to the Editor must be attributed with a name, address and contact phone number - names and town of origin will be printed, or may be withheld at the Editor's discretion. Material is published with the agreement that the contributor takes full responsibility for their submission. During the course of any election campaign, letters to the editor dealing with election issues must contain the author's name and street address (not PO Box) for publication. **Right of reply is always available.**

**Copyright Notice:** All of the content published by CPRT, including articles, photos, images, graphics, advertising, layout, printing plate content and related material, is owned by CPRT, or by other information providers who have licensed their content for use in this publication. Additionally, the entire content of the Coober Pedy Regional Times past and present is copyrighted as a collective work under Australian copyright laws and may not be reproduced without written authorisation. The owner of the collective work is Margaret Mackay

**INDEMNITY:** Advertising agencies, advertisers and other contributors accept full responsibility for the contents of advertisements and other submitted, signed material and agree to indemnify the publishers against any claim or proceedings out of the publication of such advertisements or material. Provision of material or copy for publication in the Coober Pedy Regional Times Newspaper constitutes acceptance by advertisers, advertising agencies and other contributors of this condition.

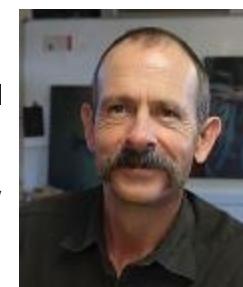
## LOCAL SCRIBES



**MARGARET**  
 Reporter,  
 Coober Pedy  
 been the Editor  
 2005 and a  
 contributor  
 1990s,  
 news stories, photography, advertising and the  
 coordinating of community contributions.



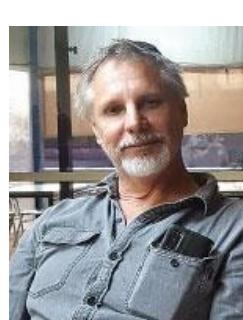
**Sgt Angus**  
 the Coober  
 Station after  
 experience on  
 Lands, and  
 Marla in the  
 West Coast  
 Sgt Lovelock is previously from Adelaide where he began  
 his career in policing 12 years ago.



**MIKE GILLAM**  
 writer-  
 who divides his  
 his Art Gallery  
 and his Dugout  
 Mike also  
 for the Alice

**MACKAY** News  
 Resident and  
 Ratepayer has  
 of CPRT since  
 volunteer  
 since the mid  
 covering general  
 news stories, photography, advertising and the  
 coordinating of community contributions.

**Lovelock** joins  
 Pedy Police  
 gaining local  
 the APY  
 also 2 years at  
 Far North,  
 and Penong.



**JOHN DI**  
 raised in the  
 Australian  
 a long-term  
 Coober Pedy.  
 person John is  
 commuter

**DONNA** was  
 South  
 Outback and is  
 resident of  
 As a business  
 a regular,  
 along the Far  
 North and Flinders highways and byways, covering the  
 entire Far North & East and Outback of South Australia.



# ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE CONVEY GRATEFUL THANKS TO OPAL BUSINESS & SUPPORTERS FOR \$22,263 CHEQUE

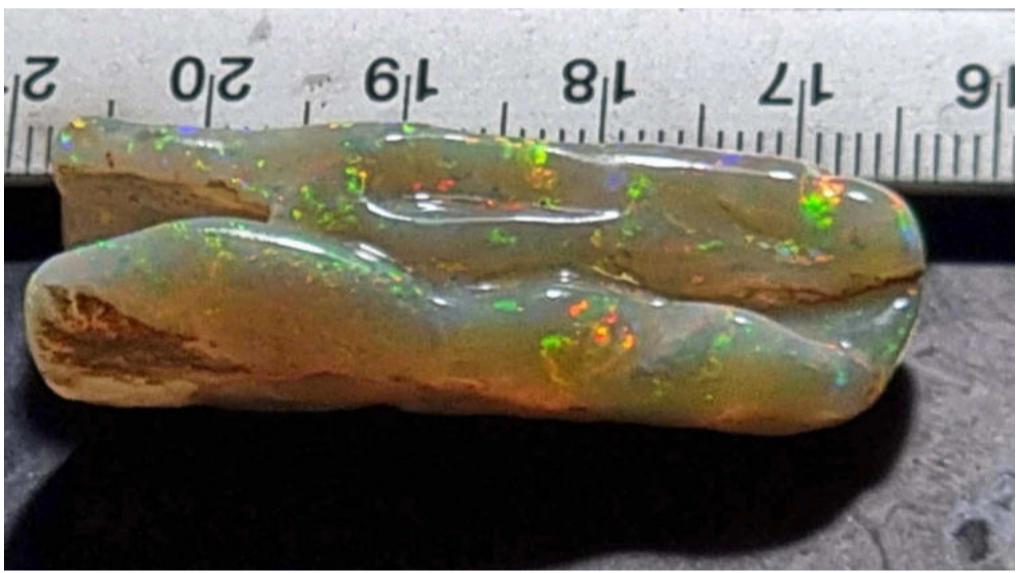
On Sunday, 7 December, Opal Terra Australis, a Coober Pedy Opal Mining Operation owned and operated by local businessman Roger Bulovic, hosted an online charity auction in support of the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia, raising an outstanding \$22,263.

On delivery of the cheque to the Royal Flying Doctor Service, Roger said, "Thanks must also go to the generosity of donors, bidders, and supporters who contributed items, funds, and promotion. This appeal will directly support the RFDS's vital life-saving work in remote and rural Australia."

"The success of the auction reflects the strength and goodwill of the wider community, and every contribution, large or small, helped make a real difference," said Roger.

"With sincere thanks to everyone involved for making this fundraiser such a success."

The Bulovic family is also gratefully acknowledged for their support in making the fundraiser possible.



The audience mostly From the international circuit were clearly supportive of the Royal Flying Doctor cause, and went out of their way to secure the items on offer.

On the night, the patrons recorded over One Million "likes", for the auction on TikTok.

Below:  
 A beautiful carving donated for the auction



**Adelaide Base**  
 1 Tower Road  
 Adelaide Airport SA 5950  
 PO Box 381  
 Marleston SA 5033  
 T 08 8238 3333  
 E [enquiries@flyingdoctor.net](mailto:enquiries@flyingdoctor.net)  
 > [flyingdoctor.org.au/sant](http://flyingdoctor.org.au/sant)

  
**Royal Flying Doctor Service**  
 SOUTH AUSTRALIA & NORTHERN TERRITORY

21 January 2026

Roger Bulovic  
 Opal Terra Australis  
 Coober Pedy SA  
 2026

Dear Roger

**RE: Thank you for supporting the Royal Flying Doctor Service SA/NT**

On behalf of the Royal Flying Doctor Service SA/NT (RFDS), I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Opal Terra Australis and the wider Coober Pedy community for your extraordinary support, raising an outstanding \$22,263 for the RFDS through an online charity auction in December 2025.

This exceptional result reflects the commitment and generosity of your community and will make a meaningful difference to the lives of people living and working across remote and rural South Australia and the Northern Territory.

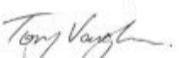
The funds raised will directly support the RFDS's vital aeromedical and primary healthcare services, helping ensure that distance is never a barrier to accessing essential medical care.

The RFDS relies heavily on community support, and we are deeply grateful for the role you have played in helping us deliver critical care to some of the most remote locations in the country.

We would like to acknowledge everyone who contributed to the success of the auction – those who donated items, placed bids, made financial contributions, and helped spread the word.

Please accept our sincere appreciation and convey our thanks to everyone involved.

Yours sincerely



**Tony Vaughan**  
 ASM Chief  
 Executive  
 Royal Flying Doctor Service SA/NT

Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia Central Operations  
 ACN 141 354 734  
 ABN 81 108 409 735



Auctioneer Daniel and offsider Callum (below) started the auction off at 6pm on Sunday evening. The international audience gained considerable momentum throughout the night, with the event concluding sometime after midnight.

# Disappearance of Gus Lamont declared a major crime



**The disappearance of four-year-old Gus Lamont from Oak Park Station on 27 September 2025 has now been declared a major crime.**

Police say this has been the largest and most intensive missing person search they have carried out. More than 160 police and over 230 other helpers, including SES, Defence Force, an Indigenous tracker and volunteers, searched the area for over 20 days.

Ground searches covered more than 95 square kilometres, including dams and mine shafts, and large areas were also searched from the air using helicopters, drones and aircraft. All of this material was reviewed by investigators using specialist software.

Despite these efforts, no evidence has been found to suggest Gus wandered away.

Police have also investigated whether Gus was abducted, but say there is no evidence of that. The investigation is now focused on people known to Gus who may have been involved in his disappearance and suspected death.

In January 2026, detectives searched Oak Park Station under warrant and seized a vehicle, a motorcycle and electronic devices for forensic testing. Police say further searches are likely as the investigation continues.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or via their website.

# New Neighbourhood Watch campaign launched

05 Feb 2026 9:46am

**A new Neighbourhood Watch campaign has been launched encouraging South Australian householders to improve their home security with the aim of reducing crime in communities statewide.**

The campaign provides practical home security tips and directs people to the [Neighbourhood Watch \(NHW\) website, https://www.police.sa.gov.au/nhw/home](https://www.police.sa.gov.au/nhw/home) where they can access tools and information to help make their homes safer and more secure.

A key feature of the campaign is a 10-question [home security habits quiz, https://www.police.sa.gov.au/nhw/home-security-habits-quiz](https://www.police.sa.gov.au/nhw/home-security-habits-quiz) developed to help users identify free changes they can make to improve their home security and reduce the risk of having their home broken into.

NHW State Coordinator Kirsty Mudge said the campaign built upon the success of the NHW SA program, which celebrated its 40th anniversary last year, by providing home security messages throughout the State, not just in areas with existing NHW groups.

“Nothing beats receiving face-to-face advice from a Neighbourhood Watch volunteer who knows your local community intimately, but there is a growing role for campaigns in ensuring everyone in the State can access reliable, quality crime prevention information that is easy to implement,” she said.

“Home break-ins can seriously impact families and individuals – from the cost to replace damaged items to psychological effects. We need to prevent break-ins from occurring.”

The objective of the campaign is to encourage householders to improve their home security to reduce crime and create safer, more connected communities.”

The campaign includes some lesser-known tips for making homes less appealing to potential intruders. For example, planting roses under your windows creates a prickly barrier for anyone thinking about breaking in.

“We know the cost of home security upgrades can put people off, so our quiz encourages householders to make small changes to their habits that can have a big impact on crime,” Kirsty said. “Simple actions such as locking doors and windows, securing valuables and being aware of your surroundings can help deter criminals.”

The campaign includes digital advertising, venue posters and letterbox drops to ensure the messaging reaches as many South Australians as possible.

## COOBER PEDY FORTNIGHTLY POLICE REPORT

29/01/2026 till 12/02/2026



**28/01/2026** – A Grey MAZDA B32 Utility SA Reg S235DEW was stolen from an address on Big Johns Road. Anyone with information is asked to call crime stoppers on 1800 333 000.

**29/01/2026** – A vehicle was stolen from Hutchison Street overnight. Police subsequently recovered the vehicle a short distance away with significant damage.

**30/01/2026** – Police, CFS and SA Ambulance responded to a suspicious house fire on Eyre Street. The vacant premises was completely destroyed in the blaze. Police and MFS fire investigators travelled to the scene later that day. Anyone with information is asked to call crime stoppers on 1800 333 000.

**01/02/2026** – A parked car had two windows smashed on Cook Street.

**07/02/2026** – Police and SA Ambulance attended a vehicle rollover on the Stuart Highway at Mount Willoughby. The driver was conveyed to Coober Pedy hospital for assessment and the vehicle suffered significant damage in the crash.

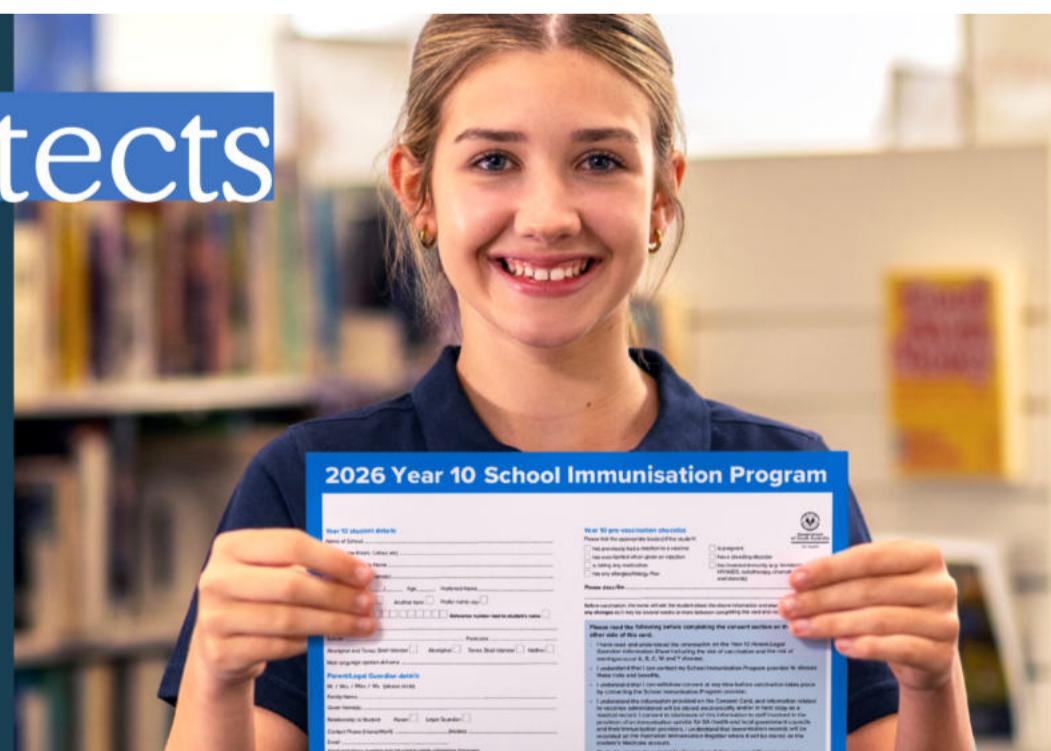
**10/02/2023** – Overnight a vehicle was stolen from a business premises on Hutchison Street. The owner located the vehicle nearby and was able to recover the vehicle before police arrived. Anyone with information is asked to call crime stoppers on 1800 333 000.



## This form protects your child

Free immunisations are available for children in year 7 and 10. Return their [School Immunisation Program](#) form to protect them against life-threatening diseases.

[sahealth.sa.gov.au/SIP](http://sahealth.sa.gov.au/SIP)



# ONE NATION'S BRANDON TURTON at ROXBY DOWNS & ANDAMOOKA



**Roxby Downs, Saturday:** Brandon attended the Roxby Valentine's Day Market, where he spoke with a wide range of locals about the issues that matter most to the community. "Some were curious about our policies. Others were simply glad to see a One Nation SA representative showing up and listening.

"One conversation that really stood out was with a gentleman who told me he had not voted since the 1970s because he felt politics no longer represented people like him."

"He asked me directly why he should participate now. My answer was simple. Too many people feel ignored by the major parties. One Nation SA stands for putting Australia and Australians first, defending freedoms, and backing regional communities."

"Days like this prove something important. People want to be heard and they are ready for change."

**Andamooka, Saturday:** In Andamooka, Brandon said campaigning brought both serious discussion and appreciation for regional South Australia's character.

"A quick stop at Spud's Roadhouse in Pimba turned into great conversations with friendly locals. That is regional South Australia in a nutshell, straight talk, good humour, and genuine interest in the future of our communities."

Dinner in Andamooka led to a lively discussion about what One Nation SA can deliver for the region. "We did not agree on every solution, and that is healthy. What mattered most was that everyone wanted the same outcome, a stronger future for our country and our communities."

Brandon also accepted an invitation for a short tour of Andamooka's early settlement. "Seeing firsthand how people lived without modern comforts is a reminder of the resilience and grit that built regional Australia"

"Campaigning is not just about policies, it is about people, shared values, and understanding the history of the places we are standing up for."

"Regional South Australia is worth fighting for and I am proud to be out here listening."



## Letter of Protest: Fair Treatment for Older Drivers

To: The Minister for Infrastructure and Transport / Registrar of Motor Vehicles

Date: 13-2-2026

Subject: Protest against discriminatory licensing requirements for residents aged 70+.

Dear Minister, Minister Emily Bourke MLC

We are writing on behalf of a large group of concerned South Australian residents to express our deep disappointment and frustration regarding the current driver's licence renewal process for people over the age of 70.

While we all value road safety, the current system is being viewed by the broader community as discriminatory, heavy-handed, and demeaning. Considering that pension age has increased from the original 65 to 67, allegedly because people are living longer and working longer, there is no evidence that by working and living Longer, that any other recognition or adjustments are afforded.

We believe that age alone should not be a reason to treat productive, healthy citizens as "guilty until proven innocent."

### The Burden of Age-Based Requirements

Many people over 70 continue to work full-time, run businesses, and support their families. Forcing drivers of heavy vehicles and motorbikes to undergo mandatory medical checks every single year from age 70, regardless of their health record, is an unfair burden.

This system treats everyone as a risk based on a birthday, rather than their actual ability to drive.

### Unfair Penalties and Stress

The current policy of suspending a licence immediately if mail is missed or if a person is away on holiday is dictatorial and some are saying, 'threatening'. This causes extreme "stress and anxiety" for older residents.

To then force someone to spend weeks proving their fitness to doctors and government departments just to get their life back is an abuse of a vulnerable sector of society.

### Impact on Mental Health and Dignity

The "compulsory self-assessment" is seen by many as insulting. It interferes with a person's peace of mind and suggests they are no longer capable of monitoring their own lives.

Furthermore, we are concerned by reports that doctors are being encouraged to "come down hard" on older patients. This undermines the trust between a patient And their doctor and feels underhanded.

### Unnecessary Medical Visits

Many residents are being forced to visit specialists, such as eye doctors, even when they have a clear history of excellent vision. This is a waste of time and money for the resident and puts unnecessary pressure on our healthcare system.

### Our Request for Change

We ask the Government to review these policies and move toward a system that: Respects Experience and focuses on health milestones rather than annual "blanket" requirements for everyone over 70.

Prevents Automatic Suspensions and allows for a fair warning period or a "grace period" before a licence is cancelled due to paperwork delays.

Promotes Dignity and uses language and processes that treat older South Australians as valued, capable members of the community.

We look forward to your response on how you plan to make these requirements fairer and less stressful for our seniors.

Sincerely,

*George Rosewarne* (Vice Chair)

Coober Pedy Community Alliance

# FAR NORTH RECORDS VARYING FEBRUARY RAINFALLS



Above: Ingomar Station Crew will reap the benefits of the February rains. Seen here enjoying a dip in nearby Brumby Creek

Major rainfall occurred across the North East (NE) and North West (NW) Pastoral districts of South Australia between 7 and 12 February 2026, driven by deep tropical moisture from **Ex-Tropical Cyclone Mitchell**.

The following stations and locations recorded significant rainfall totals during this period:

#### NW Pastoral (SA)

**Mt Barry:** 112 mm (total for the 7 days to 9 am 12 February 2026). Note: 65 mm was recorded in the 24 hours to 9 am Saturday, 7 February.

**Tieyon:** 51 mm (recorded in the 24 hours to 9 am Monday, 9 February).

**Andamooka:** 19.8 mm (recorded over three days ending 9 February).

**Ernabella:** 29 mm (recorded in the 7 days to 9 am 7 February).

**Todmorden:** 37 mm (recorded in the 7 days to 9 am 7 February).

**Coober Pedy AP:** 1 mm (recorded in the 7 days to 9 am 7 February).

**Woomera:** 3 mm (recorded in the 7 days to 9 am 7



Rain, seen at a distance from Coober Pedy.

#### NE Pastoral (SA)

**Akaroola:** 100.6 mm (recorded in the 24 hours to 9 am Sunday, 8 February). Note: 87 mm of this fell in just 6 hours on Saturday afternoon, 7 February.

**Yunta:** 3 mm (month-to-date total as of mid-February).

**Moomba:** Severe weather warnings for 90–110 mm six-hourly totals were issued on 8 February.

**Simpson Desert /Dalhousie Springs:** Heavy rain from slow-moving thunderstorms was reported through Wednesday, 11 February.

Severe weather and flood warnings remained active for parts of the far NE Pastoral district through 12 February 2026.



While rain surrounded Coober Pedy over a few days, the Opal Mining Town only received 1mm.



Walls of water in every direction but it wasn't meant to be

**Don't leave yourself exposed.**

Use a unique and strong passphrase on every account.

What are you risking online?

 **Act Now. Stay Secure.**

[actnowstaysecure.gov.au](http://actnowstaysecure.gov.au)

 **Australian Government**

Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra.

# Community Questions for “STUART” Candidates



Leon Stephens (Liberal)



Geoff Brock (Independent)



Brandon Turton (One Nation)



David Ewings (Labor)

- 1. Power reliability and cost :** What specific actions will you take in your first term to improve power reliability and reduce electricity costs in Coober Pedy, and how will you fund them?
- 2. Water security and infrastructure:** Given the neglect of our essential infrastructure over the past 8 years under Administration, what is your plan to secure long-term, affordable water supply and upgrade damaged water infrastructure?
- 3. Roads and transport access:** Which roads affecting Coober Pedy and the Far North (Stuart) will you prioritise for upgrades, and what timeline and budget will you commit to?
- 4. Health services and emergency care:** How will you improve access to doctors, nurses, specialists, aged care, mental health services, and emergency care for local residents?
- 5. Housing quality and availability:** What will you do to help restore the quality of existing housing, with vacant housing currently being dismantled by outside influences?
- 6. Jobs and economic diversification:** Bearing in mind Coober Pedy is in a remote location and needs to generate self-sufficiency, how will you help create stable, long-term jobs beyond tourism and mining?
- 7. Cost of living and working in a remote town:** What concrete measures will you support to reduce the higher costs of food, fuel, freight, and basic goods for remote areas?
- 8. Education, training, and keeping young people local:** How will you improve local education, training, and apprenticeship pathways so young people can build a future in their home town?
- 9. Public safety and antisocial behaviour:** The town faces serious problems with vandalism, arson, theft, and alcohol-related disorder. What specific, funded measures will you implement to improve safety?
- 10. Policing and enforcement presence:** Will you commit to increasing police numbers, resources, or permanent presence in the town, and if so, by how much and by when?
- 11. Alcohol harm reduction:** What changes will you pursue to reduce alcohol-related harm, including violence, property damage, and public disorder?
- 12. Protecting public spaces and children’s areas:** What will you do to keep playgrounds, parks, and public spaces safe, clean, and usable for families and children?
- 13. Support for victims and local businesses:** What support will you provide to residents and businesses affected by theft, vandalism, arson, and repeated property damage?
- 14. Community voice in decision-making:** How will you ensure local stakeholders have a genuine say in decisions about power, water, housing, and services, before decisions are finalised?
- 15. FIFO problem/current fad:** Remote areas are being robbed of their “Local Council”. Will you assist to stabilise tenure of public servants involved in the management of our Council and Essential Services by offering relocation packages?
- 16. Growing threats from Government Departments:** How will you improve the services provided by government departments? The growing threats from departments like Centrelink, “if you don’t respond to their email by the time dictated, your pension will be suspended. Vehicle Licencing dept, will suspend your licence, and now Wespac Bank will make your bank account inaccessible if you don’t do something that the Government wants changed.
- 17. Accountability and delivery:** What three specific, measurable commitments will you make for this town in your first term, and how can voters track whether you deliver them?

## POLICE ALERT – COPPER THEFTS



**Medicare's got the bill**

With increased government funding, more GPs are making bulk billing more accessible for all Australians.

To find a bulk billing GP near you visit [health.gov.au/bulkbilling](http://health.gov.au/bulkbilling)

Australian Government

# Hazards of copper thefts

February 2026

**Police are issuing a warning to would be thieves of the dangers associated with copper thefts.**

The theft of copper, aluminium and brass is an enduring problem for public utilities and services, private companies, and the building industry. Typically, thieves target items such as copper piping, taps and electrical cables - items which are easier to dispose of and carry off building sites. Traditionally these types of offences are seen around new building developments, construction sites, vacated industrial properties and other sites.

Tampering with overhead and underground electrical systems can result in electrocution, burns and shocks from direct contact or 'flashover' from proximity, and other injuries from falls or explosions.

Underground lines present additional risks of causing gas leaks and explosions during excavation, while overhead lines pose dangers from working near them with heavy equipment, which can energize the ground.

Thieves are putting their lives at risk by interfering with live electrical assets. Perpetrators also endanger the community by leaving powerlines exposed. Recently, a man was electrocuted and died at Mallala and investigators believe the man was unlawfully on the premises at the time of his death.

Police ask the public to:

Be suspicious of people loitering around vacant premises, construction sites, communications pits and infrastructure, business premises and underground office car parks especially during hours of darkness.

If you own a vacant property, visit regularly and ask neighbours to report suspicious behaviour to police.

Be suspicious of people loading metal into private (non-work) vehicles.

Be alert to vehicles with their registration numbers obscured or missing.

Make a note of vehicle registration numbers and company names if the occupants are behaving suspiciously - even if this is at a work site.

Report suspicious behaviour and thefts immediately to police on 131 444.

The community are urged to contact Crime Stoppers online at [www.crimestoppers.com.au](http://www.crimestoppers.com.au) or free call 1800 333 000 with any information relating to copper theft. You don't have to leave your name, just tell us what you know.



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

## **NEXT MEETING OF THE COOBER PEDY COMMUNITY ALLIANCE**

**Saturday 28th February, 2026 at 4PM, Italian Club**

### **GUEST SPEAKER**

**The Hon Geoff Brock MP Member for Stuart**



### **AGENDA AVAILABLE NEXT WEEK**

**Chairperson's Report to include:**

Follow-up from previous meeting items, including dry area violations/playground; and NEW issues of concern.

**SAUSAGE SIZZLE – COURTESY ITALIAN CLUB**

**WEDNESDAY**

**Cfs Training**

CFS TRAINING WEDNESDAY EVENING - 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 program



**Italian Club**

Italian Club Coober Pedy is open April - December Thursday 5-10pm and Friday nights 5 - 1a m.



**Greek Charcoal BBQ**

Friday nights 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 8.30 am**

**MINE RESCUE/SES**

2nd & 4th Saturday of the month 9am

**CP SHOOTERS CLUB**

See BACK page for latest updates, or Ring John Di Donna 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

**February 2026**

- **Wilmington Night Rodeo:** The rodeo continues into Sunday, February 1.
- **Port Augusta Park Run:** Continues to run every Saturday morning throughout February.
- **Wirrabara Producers Market:** A local market offering baked goods, fresh produce, and homemade goods on Sunday, February 15.
- **Quorn Coffee and Cars:** An event for car enthusiasts held in Quorn on Sunday Feb 22.
- **Regular Community Activities:** The Port Augusta City Council and Flinders Ranges Council calendar list various recurring fitness and hobby activities, including Yoga, Tai Chi, and Indoor RC Flying/Car Racing throughout the month.



**YEAR ROUND ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES**

**Opal Shops:** Visitors can explore Coober Pedy's the large variety of Opal Shops at their leisure.

**Underground Living:** Experience the unique "dugout" homes, underground churches (such as the Serbian Orthodox Church, and Catacomb Church), and art galleries.

**Opal Mining History:** Tour the Umoona Opal Mine & Museum or the Old Timers Mine to learn about the town's history and see opal displays.

**"Noodling":** Try your luck at finding your own opals by "noodling" (fossicking) through permitted mine areas; you can inquire at the Visitor Centre for guidance.

**Natural Landscapes:** Visit the Kanku-Breakaways Conservation Park, about 33km north of town, which offers stunning views, especially at sunrise and sunset. The Moon Plain and the Dingo Fence are also nearby sights.

**Unique Local Spots:** Other points of interest include the Coober Pedy Golf Course

Josephine's Gallery and Kangaroo Orphanage, and the Coober Pedy Drive-In

**Accommodation:** Stay in an underground motel, or at an underground campground

# COOBER PEDY

## DRIVE-IN THEATRE

### Coober Pedy

### Drive In

#### March Movies

7th -Zootopia 2

21st- The Housemaid

25th- David (sponsored community event)

28th - Mercy

Gate and Movie times TBA

No walk ins under 16 unless accompanied by guardian

Children to be supervised at ALL times



Car \$30 (2-7people), Adult \$15, student/concession \$10, child \$5

**William Creek Gymkhana and Motokhana March 28th 2026**



**The Bronco Branding and Cow Work to be held on August 15, 2026**

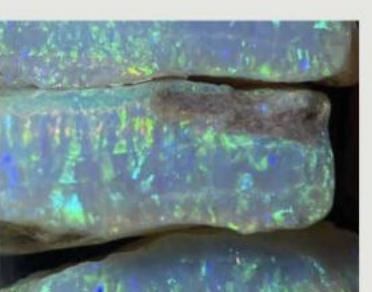


# COOBER PEDY GEM TRADE SHOW - 2026

## 2026 COOBER PEDY GEM TRADE SHOW



**FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL**  
MEET & GREET  
LOCATION - TBA  
**SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL &**  
**SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**  
9AM - 5PM  
GEM TRADE SHOW  
LOCATION - CROATIAN CLUB



**CONTACT US** CPGEMTRADESHOW@OUTLOOK.COM

**DCCP - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**



District Council of Coober Pedy

**District Council of Coober Pedy Community Engagement**

The District Council of Coober Pedy invites feedback regarding the draft **“Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2026-2030”**.

Community consultation is now open and will close at 5pm on Tuesday 17 February 2026.

Copies are available at:

- Coober Pedy School Community Library;
- Civic Centre (Council Office); and
- Council's Website.

[https://www.cooberpedy.sa.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0025/1928032/Draft-DCCP-Plan-for-community-engagement.pdf](https://www.cooberpedy.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0025/1928032/Draft-DCCP-Plan-for-community-engagement.pdf)

Written submissions will be accepted until 5.00pm on 17 February 2026 and can be made by:

- Emailing [dccp@cpcouncil.sa.gov.au](mailto:dccp@cpcouncil.sa.gov.au);
- Visiting [www.cooberpedy.sa.gov.au](http://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.

## Guardian Interlock Service Centre

**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

**CALL 000 in an EMERGENCY**  
**131 444 POLICE ASSISTANCE**

**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 concerns of bureaucratic victimisation of whistleblowers, and allegations of bullying, community members or writers may use a 'PEN NAME' but must

## Coober Pedy Regional Times



Display EGN \$6.75 pcm/pcol (7 col)  
Classi \$8.35 pcm/pcol (4 col)

editor@cooberpedytimes.com  
Tel: 86725920

## 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. Ph: 86723903

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 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.cooperpedy.com/contact-2/>

## Coober Pedy Sports & Rec Assoc. Inc

Jordan Riessen- Chairperson

Gwen Martin - Treasurer

Gwen Martin - Secretary

Jon Fatt-Clifton - 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 2025/2026 President

Daniel Lamb

Senior Vice President Stephen Scott

Junior Vice President John McDermott Secretary

John Di Donna

Treasurer Suzanne Bunker

Public Relations Greg Sparrow

### Committee Members

Robert Gigos; CharissaLamb; Phil Gerschwitz; Jesse Manfred

Contact Secretary: 0427 649 389

## Coober Pedy RSL Sub-Branch

President: Rod Hagel

Vice President: Mick Cox

Secretary: Kingsley Kammermann

Treasurer: Miriam Kammermann

Committee Members:

Rayleen Hagel

Roz Jazepczyk

Michael Stocks

Coober Pedy RSL,  
Edward Street COOBER PEDY SA 5723

Email: [CooberPedy@rslsa.org.au](mailto:CooberPedy@rslsa.org.au)

## Coober Pedy Historical Society Inc

### Committee Elected 20/10/2025

Chairperson: Trish Turner

Secretary: Jenny Davison

Treasurer: Sue Britt

Public Officer: Judy Harper

Contact: [cooperpedyhs@gmail.com](mailto:cooperpedyhs@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/>

## ASSOCIATIONS

### COOBER PEDY MINERS ASSOC.

Coober Pedy SA 3723

### Committee Elected for 2025/26

President: Matt Graham,

Secretary:

Treasurer: Nicko Farantouris

Committee Members: Rod Wells, Mish Blanusa, Mike Eakins, Steve Perkins, Lachlan 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: [cooperpedygolfclub@gmail.com](mailto:cooperpedygolfclub@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, Donna Clements, Sarah Rethus.

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.cooperpedydrivein.org.au/documents.html>

## Coober Pedy Italian Club Inc

### Committee Elected 18/10/2025

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,

Mitchell Rosewarne

## Coober Pedy GEM TRADE SHOW

### Committee Elected 18-12-2024

President - Corey Edwards

Secretary - Tara-Jane Smith

Treasurer - Emily Pennisi

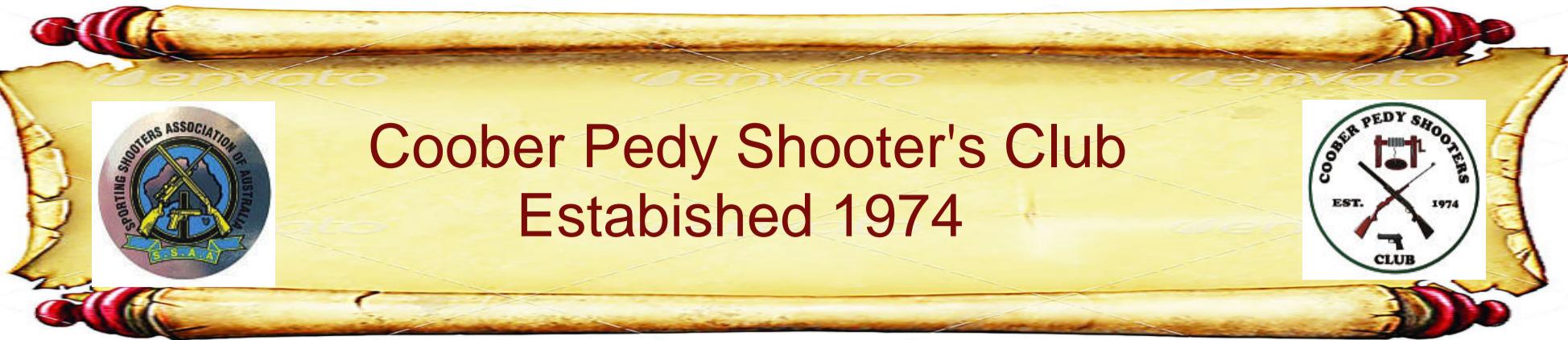
### Committee members

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 (Military)**

**7 February**

**14 February**

**21 February**

**28 February**

**7 March**

**DISCIPLINES INCLUDE:**

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

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

- ◆ Darts
- ◆ Archery

**Starting Time: 9:00 AM**

**Sundays Rapid Fire 50m Benchrest Match**

**8 February**

**15 February**

**22 February**

**1 March**

**8 March**

**MEMBERSHIP Renewal Now Due 2026**

**Single Membership \$ 100.00**

**Couple Membership \$150.00**

**Family Membership \$ 200.00**

**Affiliate Membership \$20.00**

**SSAA MEMBERSHIP DUE NOW**

**Sign-up online**

**<https://ssaasa.org.au....> Or at the club**



Any Enquires regarding Membership, sponsorships, donations, or shooting, please contact

Suzanne Bunker -- Email [cpsc.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:cpsc.treasurer@gmail.com)

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



**The Coober Pedy Shooter's Club is affiliated with the  
Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (South Australia) Incorporated.**  
<https://ssaasa.org.au>