

COOPER PEDY GEM TRADE SHOW 2026 - MOVING FORWARD

By: Margaret Mackay (CPRT)

Each year, as the Easter long weekend approaches, the desert town of Cooper Pedy quietly prepares for one of its most important gatherings.

The Cooper Pedy Gem Trade Show, now a firmly established fixture on the Australian opal calendar did not begin as a grand event. It began as a practical idea, born from the needs of local miners determined to take greater control of their market.

The 2026 Easter Long Weekend event began on Friday evening at Cooper Pedy's Outback Bar & Grill ahead of the two-day show. The Gem Trade Show attendees were welcomed at the "Meet & Greet" by the very active committee of 'young guns', all involved in the opal industry (pictured right)

Committee member Tara Jane Smith said, "The Gem Trade Show was a huge success despite the fuel crisis. The support of our local miners, businesses and community was overwhelming."

"We started with our usual Meet and Greet dinner which managed to book out the Outback Bar and Grill. Great food and company, and a fantastic start to the weekend."



Cooper Pedy Gem Trade Show Committee at the Meet & Greet event. L-R Corey Edwards, Emily Pennisi, Rachel Crothers, Cat Bell, David Hammermeister, Tara-Jane Smith (not pictured)



Thank you to Luigi, Alex, Yanni and all of the staff at Outback Bar & Grill

"Over the long weekend, all booths were full in the main showroom; 25 in total, and we expanded into a new area allowing for trestle tables and a more casual selling area, which also proved successful."

"We had great support from our international buyers, around 1520, with sales also made through our Miners' Association trading room, allowing our local miners to deal with all buyers."

"Our numbers through the door for the weekend were above what we expected; approximately 500, considering the current fuel crisis. The Gem Trade Show committee are extremely grateful for all the assistance and volunteering leading up to the Show, with a special thank you to Matthew and Nathan Rethus."

"Feedback so far indicates that there were good sales made across the board of rough, cut and set stones and jewellery pieces, as well as opal accessories."

"We are already looking towards next year and hoping to expand the show. Thank you to everyone for their support of our wonderful show, showcasing Australia's National Gemstone."



Conan Fahey & Leila Day (Andamooka Observatory) with Jim Mathews (Jim's Gems Stalls, and Maureen & Andrew Tyler Andamooka



Astrid and Heath Strawbridge at the GTS with Kamal Valentino from Melbourne



Deb & Laz Katona at their "Lazlo's Opals & Jewellery" booth, chatting with locals, including Phil Van Poorten, and Bev Mason.



Guests, including Opal Buyer from Germany, Jürgen Schütz, in town for the long weekend, catching up on opal industry news with Nick Farantouris and "Luigi" Brandli.

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. By 2026 the Social Media following alone totals over 19,000 and rising.

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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 - "Advertorial" or "Special Feature", please enquire about the cost first.

Advertisers may be entitled to editorials

Sponsorship for clubs or community programs is by arrangement.










WEATHER COOBER PEDY

Coober Pedy

Forecast issued at 3:30 pm CST on Saturday 11 April 2026.

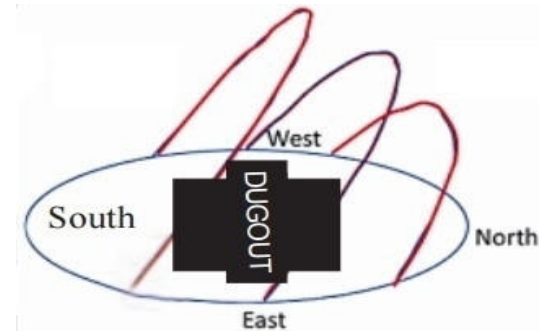
[Detailed Coober Pedy Forecast](#)

	Sat. 11 Apr	Sun. 12 Apr	Mon. 13 Apr	Tue. 14 Apr	Wed. 15 Apr	Thu. 16 Apr	Fri. 17 Apr
	 Clear.	 Sunny.	 Sunny.	 Sunny.	 Sunny.	 Sunny.	 Sunny.
Max. Temperature		22 °C	24 °C	25 °C	27 °C	28 °C	29 °C
Min. Temperature		10 °C	9 °C	11 °C	13 °C	13 °C	15 °C

AVERAGE ANNUAL RAINFALL
Approximately 144 mm to 175 mm
(roughly 5.7 to 6.9 inches).

Wettest Month: February is typically the wettest month.

Driest Months: April is generally the driest, though the area experiences low, erratic rainfall throughout the year.



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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 .

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LOCAL SCRIBES

MARGARET
Reporter,
Coober Pedy
been the Editor
2005 and a
contributor



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.

Sgt Angus
the Coober
Station after
experience on
Lands, and
Marla in the
West Coast



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



is a freelance
photographer
time between
in Alice Springs
in Coober Pedy.
writes essays
Springs News.

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.



Active Claims as at 10/04/2026

**Andamooka – 157
 Coober Pedy – 428
 Mintabie – 10
 Stuart Creek – 1**



COOBER PEDY GEM TRADE SHOW - MOVING FORWARD

Back in 2007, the industry in Coober Pedy was facing familiar challenges. Distance, fluctuating demand, and reliance on middlemen often left miners with limited bargaining power. In response, a small but determined group, supported by local business and mining associations along with the District Council and the Northern Regional Development Board, set out to create something different. Their vision was simple yet ambitious. Bring the buyers directly to the source.

Key figures such as Paul Reynolds helped drive the concept forward, with supportive leadership from Yanni Athanasiadis (Coober Pedy Retail Business and Tourism Association), ensuring it did not lose momentum. The early shows were modest in scale, held in the Greek Hall, and carried a strong sense of purpose. Miners were allowed to present their own stones, both rough and finished, face to face with serious buyers from Australia and overseas.

The inaugural event, held alongside the Opal Festival, injected an estimated two and a half million dollars into the local economy. For a remote town, that kind of impact was significant. Just as important was the shift in confidence. By the third year, international interest had doubled, with buyers arriving from China, India, and beyond, recognising the value of dealing directly with those who work the fields.

The Gem Trade Show was, and still is, about giving local miners a fair platform. Affordable, and at times free, booth space ensured that even small operators could take part, preserving the grassroots nature of the event.



With grateful thanks always, to the wonderful sponsors in the background making these events possible



Setting up the 2016 Gem Trade Show at the Croation Club Hall, are Paul Reynolds at the helm, with assistants Dale Price, Albert McCormack and Robin Rapaic.

Another defining feature has been the relationships built around it. Informal gatherings, shared meals, and simple conversations have often proven just as valuable as the sales themselves. Over time, these connections have helped establish long term trade links, strengthening Coober Pedy's position in a competitive global market.

Today, the Coober Pedy Gem Trade Show continues to attract buyers from across Asia and Europe, maintaining its role as a direct marketplace for one of Australia's most unique resources. It remains closely tied to the broader Opal Festival, drawing visitors who come not only to trade, but to experience the character of the town itself.

The success of the show lies in the fact that the remote town identified a challenge and created its own solution. What began as a can-do initiative has grown into a respected international event, reinforcing Coober Pedy's reputation as the Opal Capital of the World, and ensuring that the story of its stones continues to be told by those who find them.

A new generation has now stepped forward, bringing fresh energy and a strong sense of continuity to the Gem Trade Show. Young opal industry families, many with children already growing up around the fields, are now playing an active role in both the organisation and progressive development of future events.

Their involvement reflects not only a commitment to the industry but also to the future of Coober Pedy itself.

With the show still locally managed and supported by the wider community, this next wave of participants is helping to strengthen and evolve what has already been built. The growing success of the Gem Trade Show is now being carried forward with enthusiasm, resilience, and a clear sense of ownership.



Paul Reynold, who brought the Gem Trade Show to life in 2007 with Albert McCormack at the 2016 event.



Mr Yanni Athanasiadis, Chairperson of the 2009 Coober Pedy Gem Trade Show & Vice President, Coober Pedy Retail Business & Tourism Association at the James Mougri's booth showing opal buyers from Shanghai, China around



Paul Reynold with international guests at the 2016 GTS



Croatian Club parking remained steady during GTS



Coober Pedy Regional Times ©
 Gem Trade Show 2026



EDWARDS OPAL 2026

At the Edwards Opal booth, Front: Emily Pennisi and Corey Edwards. Back: Family friend, and Harper Edwards.



Overview of the 2026 Meet & Greet event



POLICE NEWS

Cooper Pedy - 27/03/2026 til 09/04/2026

Anyone with information on the following incidents is asked to call crime stoppers on 1800 333 000. You can remain anonymous.

06/04/2026 – A residential property on Grund Street was broken into and a small amount of property stolen.

06/04/2026 – 3 vehicles parked at a business premises on Nicholas Street were broken into overnight. Police attended and identified 3 male offenders who were subsequently arrested.

All will face the Cooper Pedy Magistrates Court at a later date.



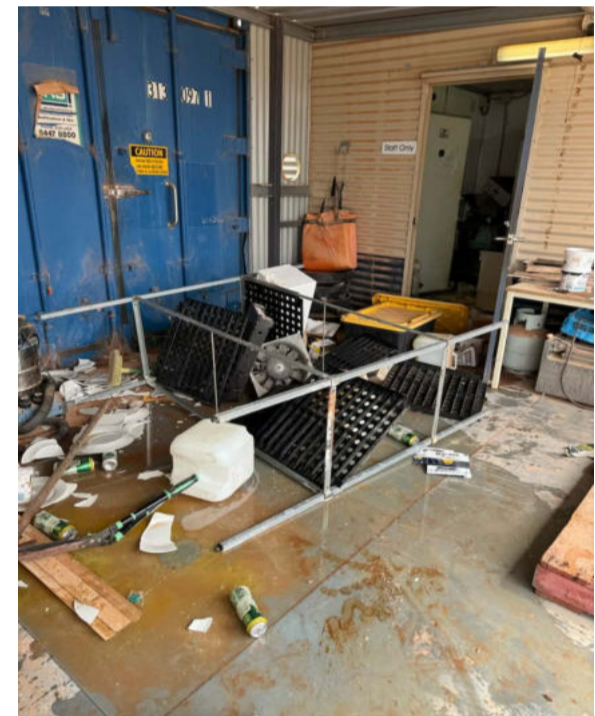
COMMUNITY REPORT

19-3-2026 - A local resident reported a break-in at the CU River Mining Camp on Crowders Gully Road, Cooper Pedy, where considerable vandalism was taking place.

The resident gathered evidence, including photographs of the 'underage' perpetrators and damage, and provided it to the police at Cooper Pedy.

Ampol Break-in

11-4-2026 Ampol Service Station and Restaurant (Oliver Street) was targeted for a break-in at 4:400 am on Saturday morning by at least three people. Entry was gained by smashing the front door of the building. Cigarettes and alcohol were stolen, with perpetrators causing damage to the cabinet. Video footage of the offence was supplied to the police.



Ag Town of the Year nominations now open

The search is now on for this year's Agricultural Town (Ag Town) of the Year, with rural communities across the state set to square off for the honour.

Nominations are now open for the 2026 Ag Town of the Year Award, a coveted accolade that recognises South Australian towns that excel in agriculture and are also great places to live and work.

The award celebrates the strength and vitality of the state's agricultural sector, highlighting towns that embrace their farming heritage and demonstrate foresight, resilience, and community spirit.

Now in its eighth year, the award is an initiative of the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA), delivered in partnership with Solstice Media – owner of respected South Australian publications InDaily SA and SALIFE.

The winning town will receive:

- * A certificate and trophy presented by the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development at the awards event
- * Town entrance signage recognising the town's remarkable achievement
- * A community event and sign unveiling ceremony
- * Media exposure, including stories showcasing the achievements of individuals and businesses, as well as video highlights of regional development and agricultural contributions
- * A guaranteed double-page feature in the 2027 February edition of SALIFE magazine and coverage by digital news outlet InDaily SA
- * Networking opportunities throughout the program and at the awards night.

Nominations for the 2026 Ag Town of the Year Award can be submitted via agtown.com.au and are open until 6 May 2026.



COOBER PEDY GEM TRADE SHOW 2026 - MOVING FORWARD



Yannie Aslamatzis with opal products at GTS



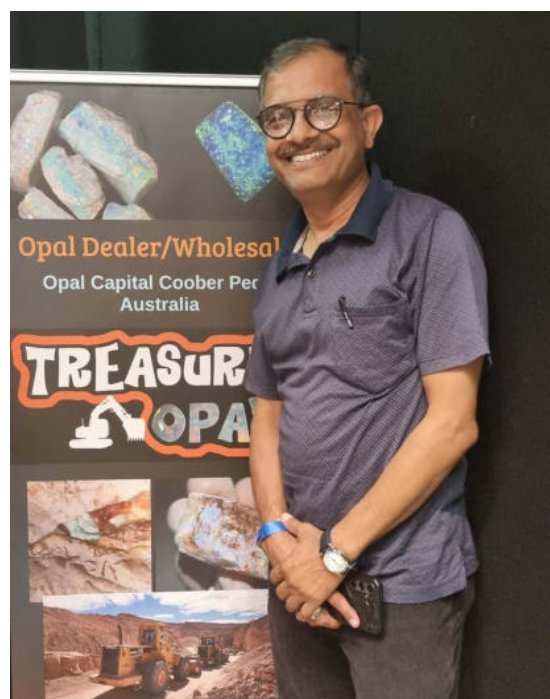
New local John O'Brien's first Gem Trade Show



The Coober Pedy Historical Society display



The Croatian Club volunteers were kept very busy



Kamal Valentino enjoying the Show.



Callum Tyler visiting with his parents from Andamooka.



The Placid Gems booth was a hive of activity



Rough opal was very popular at the Gem Trade Show

APPLICATION BY AMYAC CORPORATION TO VARY NATIVE TITLE DETERMINATION IN THE COOBER PEDY AREA

Notice of an application for a revised determination of native title in South Australia
Notification day: 22 April 2026



National Native Title Tribunal

This is an application by Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC, asking the Federal Court of Australia (Federal Court) to vary a determination of native title (Relevant Determination) in the area described below.

The applicant seeks orders under s 13(1)(b) of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), including that the Relevant Determination be varied to:

- delete paragraphs 10 and 11 relating to pastoral lease improvements
- include new schedules describing areas:
 - o where native title exists
 - o excluded from the determination because native title has been extinguished
 - o where, pursuant to a proposed ILUA, native title is surrendered
- other minor variations, such as to correct or update parcel descriptions.

The effect of the variation orders sought would be to; recognise native title over specified areas, identify areas that have been excluded by the Determination because of extinguishment, and list areas where native title is proposed to be surrendered.

If you want to become a party to this application, you must file a Form 5 (Notice of Intention to become a Party) with the Federal Court, **on or before 21 July 2026**. Further information regarding how to file a Form 5 is available from www.fedcourt.gov.au. **After 21 July 2026**, you will need to seek leave from the Federal Court to become a party.



Application name: Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC ICN 2932 v State of South Australia
Federal Court File No: SAD5/2026
Date filed: 11 January 2026
Relevant Determination: Lennon on behalf of the Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara Native Title Claim Group v The State of South Australia [2011] FCA 474 (11 May 2011)
Description of area: The application area covers about 75,915 sq km and is located in the vicinity of Coober Pedy and surrounding area
Relevant LGAs: Pastoral Unincorporated Area and the District Council of Coober Pedy

For assistance and any further information about this application, including the description of the area, call Claire Smith on 07 3052 4040 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.



WHERE ARE THE NOMINATIONS FOR THE PROPOSED GREY NAME-CHANGE?

TOM VENNING MP URGES CONSTITUENTS TO HAVE THEIR SAY ON ELECTORAL CHANGES

A Name Change of the Federal Electorate of Grey will affect 133K voters

Federal Member for Grey, Tom Venning MP, is urging constituents to make their voices heard regarding the Australian Electoral Commission's proposal to rename the historic electorate of Grey to O'Donoghue and significantly alter its boundaries.

Residents and stakeholders across South Australia's vast federal electorate of Grey are raising concerns regarding the proposal by the Australian Electoral Commission to rename the division to O'Donoghue as part of the current redistribution process and based on an "anonymous submission". To be fair and Democratic, why are further nominations not being sought after?

There is also concern that the proposed change may inadvertently become politicised in the lead-up to the next federal election, potentially creating unnecessary division among voters. Electoral boundaries and names should remain neutral, practical, and reflective of the broader community, rather than perceived as favouring particular viewpoints or agendas.

While expressing deep respect for the profound contributions of both South Australian founding father Sir George Grey and trailblazing Indigenous rights advocate Dr. Lowitja O'Donoghue, Mr. Venning criticised the costly logistical overhaul required for the name change as unnecessary "busy work for bureaucrats" during a cost-of-living crisis.

While there is broad respect for the legacy of Lowitja O'Donoghue and her contribution to Indigenous advancement and public life, many in regional and remote areas believe the proposal risks reopening divisions at a time when Australians are seeking unity and forward direction.

As the consultation process continues, community members are encouraging the Australian Electoral Commission to consider alternative naming options that reflect the region's shared heritage and forward-looking identity. Names inspired by the opal industry, the pastoral industry, the landscape, or the collective history of its people may better represent the spirit of unity that defines the electorate today.

Tom Venning MP, Member for Grey said, "I greatly respect the work and legacy of both individuals, but it is my belief that we don't honour history by editing it, we honour it by adding to it."

The electorate of Grey is one of the most diverse and unique regions in the nation, built on a shared history of resilience, migration, and cooperation. Communities such as Cooper Pedy, Andamooka, Mintabie, and Lambina were shaped significantly by the discovery and development of opal, Australia's national gemstone.

Primary industries are completely impersonal, and a large part of what supports our entire state, collectively. For example, an all-inclusive name could be: "Division of Outback South Australia" (or simply "Division of the Outback"). Something along this line reflects the shared identity of the region across mining, pastoral, and primary industries, without favouring or flattering one history or viewpoint over another."

"At a time when the government is telling everyday Australians to tighten their belts, forcing a name change that requires new signage, updated collateral, and wasted resources across four offices is just expensive busy work for bureaucrats."

This industry brought together people from 10s of dozens of nationalities, alongside Indigenous Australians, forming a rare example of genuine integration where cultures have not only coexisted, but thrived together.

Grey has evolved far beyond its early foundations. It now stands as a symbol of what can be achieved when people from all backgrounds come together with a common purpose. Any decision about its future name should honour that reality and reinforce a sense of inclusion for all.

"This shift brings Riverlea, a city fringe suburban development, into an electorate that represent farmers, fishers, miners, tourism, and two heavy industry hubs in the shape of Port Pirie and Whyalla. The demographics do not make sense"

South Australia's history represents a powerful and unifying narrative. It is a story of shared endeavour, economic contribution, and social cohesion that reflects modern Australia at its best.

Sincerely,
 M. Mackay (Editor)

"It is strange also that the boundaries bring in half of Light Council, and now half of Playford Council. Logic says we should have simply taken all of Light or all of Playford."

Many believe that any future naming consideration should acknowledge an impersonal and collective identity of primary industries and endeavour that exists in Grey, rather than revisiting historical distinctions that risk being interpreted through a political lens.

"While I will also be making a submission, ultimately, this is not my decision to make, so I am encouraging everyone to go to the AEC website and make a formal submission."

AEC SUBMISSION SITE:
<https://formupload.aec.gov.au/Form?FormId=RedisIdeasa>



Provide ideas on the proposed redistribution of South Australia's federal electorates

My details

First name - optional

Family name - optional

Email

My idea on the proposed South Australian Redistribution

What is your idea about?

Tell us about your idea - optional

Upload your idea - optional

Declaration

Submit

Kangaroo Jack: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61588105485795>

Saturday 16th May 2026 at Roxby Downs

FUEL EXCISE RELIEF WELCOME, BUT FERTILISER & FREIGHT COSTS CONTINUE TO SQUEEZE LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

Livestock SA has welcomed the Federal Government's decision to temporarily halve the fuel excise on petrol and diesel, while warning that rising fuel, freight and fertiliser costs are placing South Australian livestock producers under increasing financial strain, with flow-on impacts for food production, animal welfare and regional economies.

From 1 April, the fuel excise will be reduced by 26.3 cents per litre for three months, alongside a temporary reduction of the heavy vehicle road user charge to zero. While the measures aim to ease cost-of-living pressures, Livestock SA says the relief does not address the reality facing producers who are forced to absorb rising costs across every stage of production.

Livestock SA Chair, Gillian Fennell said livestock producers are price takers, not price setters, and have no capacity to pass increased costs down the supply chain.

"Fuel underpins every part of agricultural production, from running machinery and moving livestock, to delivering feed, animal health products and fertiliser. Producers are already reporting freight surcharges of up to 40 per cent, alongside rising costs for fertiliser, animal health treatments and supplements. These are not discretionary inputs; they are critical to productivity and animal welfare." Ms Fennell said.

Recent national reporting shows producers across Australia are selling stock and machinery, delaying operations or reconsidering production altogether to manage soaring diesel prices, with fuel costs doubling in some regions since late February.

National farming bodies have warned that escalating fuel and transport costs are already cutting into tight margins and threatening food security, animal welfare and regional jobs.

Gillian Fennell said the impacts are being felt most acutely at the farm gate, long before food reaches supermarket shelves. "Farmers buy everything at retail prices, sell at wholesale prices, and pay the freight both ways," Ms Fennell said". Livestock SA warned that while consumers may see higher food prices at the checkout, producers are unlikely to see any benefit.

"There is a misconception that higher retail prices flow back to farmers, they don't," Ms Fennell said. "If anything, producers are wearing more of the cost than anyone else in the system."



Fire Ban District - Started Finish

NORTH EAST PASTORAL	1 November 2025	15 April 2026
NORTH WEST PASTORAL	1 November 2025	15 April 2026
FLINDERS RANGES	1 November 2025	15 April 2026
RIVERLAND	1 November 2025	30 April 2026
WEST COAST	15 October 2025	15 April 2026
Yorke Peninsula	1 November 2025	30 April 2026
Eastern Eyre Peninsula	15 October 2025	15 April 2026
Lower Eyre Peninsula	15 Novem 2025	15 April 2026
Lower South East	1 November 2025	30 April 2026
Mid North	1 November 2025	30 April 2026
Mount Lofty Ranges	1 December 2025	30 April 2026
Murraylands	1 November 2025	30 April 2026
Kangaroo Island	15 Novem 2025	30 April 2026
Upper South East	1 November 2025	30 April 2026
Adelaide Metropolitan	1 December 2025	30 April 2026



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

Admin & Finance enquires: Ann Gerschwitz 0439 325 806 or ann.gerschwitz@sacfsvolunteer.org.au

Recruiting enquiries: Linda Buckeridge on 0401507690 or linda.buckeridge@sacfsvolunteer.org.au

OUR TRAINING TIMES

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

502 Hutchinson Street, Cooper Pedy SA 5723

We look forward to chatting with you soon.

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

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.

A SAFE COMMUNITY STARTS WITH YOU.



Government of South Australia



COOPER PEDY COMMUNITY ALLIANCE & COOPER PEDY MINERS ASSOCIATION

TOWN MEETING:

Saturday 2nd May, 2026 at 4PM, Italian Club



To discuss the application by Antakarinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara Corporation RNTBC asking the Federal Court of Australia to vary a Federal Court Determination on the Cooper Pedy area



The applicant seeks orders under s 13(1)(b) of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth), including that the Relevant Determination be varied to:

- delete paragraphs 10 and 11 relating to pastoral lease improvements
- include new schedules describing areas:
 - o where native title exists
 - o excluded from the determination because native title has been extinguished
 - o where, pursuant to a proposed ILUA, native title is surrendered
- other minor variations, such as to correct or update parcel descriptions.

For PASTORALISTS, this represents a fundamental change in land control. Under the original 2011 rules, infrastructure and the land immediately surrounding it were largely treated as areas where native title was "wiped out," giving the leaseholder clear, unilateral authority. The removal of these paragraphs means that native title rights may now overlap with these improved areas, potentially requiring more formal discussions and access agreements rather than relying on automatic legal exclusions. This creates a greater need for pastoralists to engage directly with native title holders to ensure operational certainty.

OPAL MINERS face a similar shift toward a more structured and agreement-based system. The revision aims to provide high-precision mapping to clarify exactly where native title exists, where it has been extinguished, and where it is being surrendered through Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs). While this increased clarity can reduce long-term legal uncertainty, the reliance on ILUAs means that future mining access and exploration may depend more heavily on successfully negotiated outcomes and specific permissions rather than broad historical assumptions. In essence, the region is moving away from rigid legal rules toward a model of negotiated co-management.

Because these changes will redefine land use and development approvals across the District Council of Cooper Pedy and surrounding pastoral areas, the community has a limited window to respond. Anyone whose interests, be they mining claims or pastoral leases, may be affected has until 21 July 2026 to file a Form 5 with the Federal Court to become a party to the application. After this date, participating in the legal process becomes significantly more difficult, leaving the future of land access to be decided by the court and the current applicants.

If you want to become a party to this application, you must file a Form 5 (Notice of Intention to become a Party) with the Federal Court, on or before 21 July 2026. Further information regarding how to file a Form 5 is available from www.fedcourt.gov.au. After 21 July 2026, you will need to seek leave from the Federal Court to become a party. The Miners' Association and the Community Alliance will assist.

JOIN US FOR A SAUSAGE SIZZLE AFTER THE MEETING



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 Cooper Pedy

Thursday 5-10pm and Friday nights 5 - 1a m.

Greek Charcoal BB



Friday nights at the Greek Hall.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Meet Fridays 7pm at the side of the Catholic Church. If you have a drink ing problem and need help. Call 1800222222, Or call Dave on 0409349753

SATURDAYS

parkrun

8am Saturday mornings Town Oval

KIDS CHURCH/CLUB
Catacomb Anglican Church
 Every Sunday at 10 am (40 mins) - church starts at 9:30 am



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

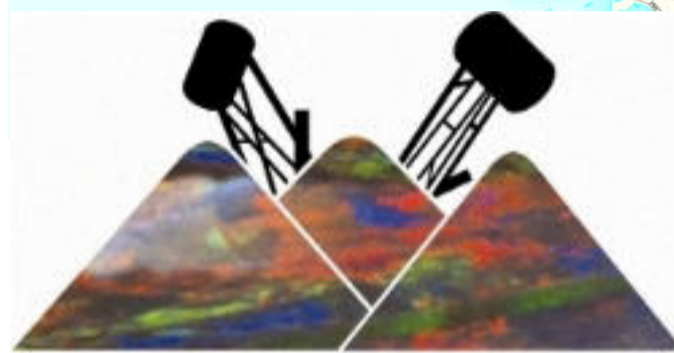
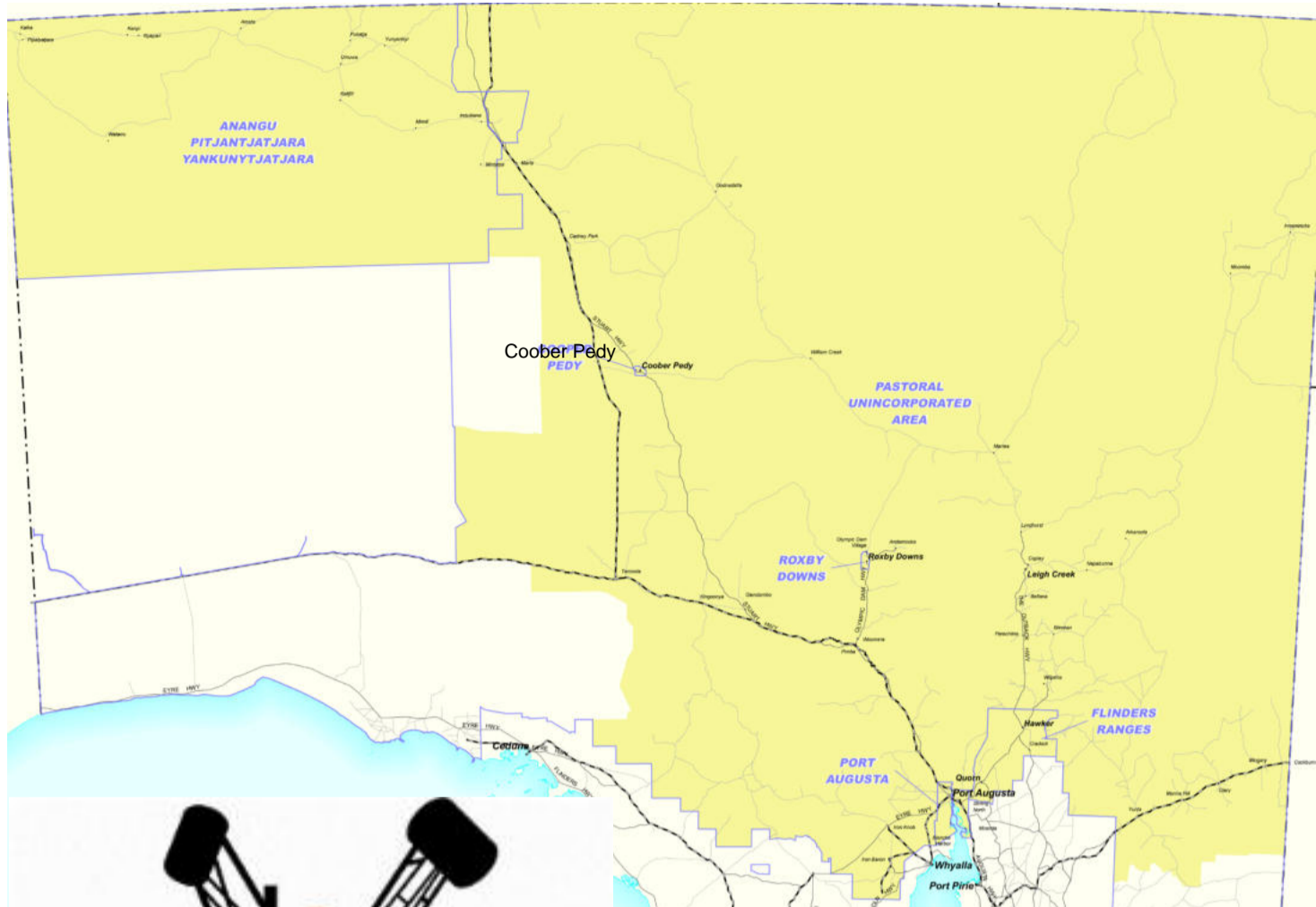
SUNDAYS

CP SHOOTERS CLUB

See BACK PAGE for latest updates Ring John DiDonna on 0427649389

COOPER PEDY RSL

Open Sunday afternoon from 4.00pm; Happy hour and members draw between 5.00pm and 6.00pm



COOPER PEDY
 RETAIL, BUSINESS AND TOURISM ASSOCIATION

SOUTH AUSTRALIA PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2026

- JAN 1 New Year's Day
- JAN 26 Australia Day
- MAR 9 Adelaide Cup Day
- APR 3 Good Friday
- APR 4 Easter Saturday
- APR 5 Easter Sunday
- APR 6 Easter Monday
- APR 25 Anzac Day - Lest We Forget
- MAY 4 Labour Day
- JUN 8 King's Birthday - Crown, royal emblems
- OCT 5 Labour Day (SA specific) - Workplace unity, family time
- DEC 24 Christmas Eve
- DEC 25 Christmas Day
- DEC 26 Proclamation Day / Boxing Day - Beach, sports
- DEC 28 Additional Holiday for Proclamation Day - Holiday activities, family fun

STUART HIGHWAY CORRIDOR Pit -Stop Check

Andamooka: A quirky, historical gem where 'noodling' for opals is a way of life. Don't miss the world-class stargazing under some of the darkest skies on the planet Best for an overnight detour to experience underground history and the world's rarest opals.

Kingoonya :A slight detour off the highway, but worth it for the Outback charm and the friendly Kingoonya Hotel.

Pimba: A tiny, remote outback settlement in South Australia, located 441 km north of Adelaide at the junction of the Stuart Highway and the turn-off to Woomera/Roxby Downs. Primarily a key pitstop for travellers, it is renowned for Spud's Roadhouse , offering fuel, food, and accommodation. It also acts as a stop for the Ghan and Indian Pacific trains.

Glendambo is the crucial "halfway" point between Port Augusta and Cooper Pedy for fuel and a classic pub meal.

Cooper Pedy: Opal Capital of the World: Sleep underground, noodle for opal, explore the breakaways at sunset, and experience a town where the 'fairway' is dirt and the treasures are hidden beneath your feet."

William Creek: Australia's smallest town with a big personality. Located on the world's largest cattle station, and a gateway to scenic flights over the Painted Hills and Kati Thanda - Lake Eyre.

Marree: Where the Oodnadatta and Birdsville Tracks meet. Discover the rich Afghan cameleer history and take senic flights to witness the filling of Lake Eyre, amazing outback wildlife and the mysterious Marree Man from above.

Oodnadatta: Home of the iconic Pink Roadhouse. A must-stop for a 'burger and a photo' before you tackle the legendary red tracks of the deep outback.

Cadney Park Homestead: located 150 km north of Cooper Pedy on the Stuart Highway in South Australia, is a remote, family-friendly oasis offering motel-style rooms, cabins, and pet friendly caravan/camping sites. It features a restaurant, bar, swimming pool, and fuel services, making it a popular stop for travellers.

Marla: The essential rest point before the long stretch toward the NT border; great for early morning starts.

April 2026

Travelling North - Stuart Highway



ANDAMOOKA: Fuel, food, and a stop-over; PLUS:
 Historic Cottages (1930s homes); Opal Noodling (Fossicking);
 Underground Museum (Opal display); Yacht Club (Cafe/Gallery);
 Duke's Bottlehouse Museum & Motel; Stoner's Studio (Sculptures);
 Mining Machinery (Historic); Observatory Tours (Stargazing);
 Lake Torrens (Salt lake); Op-Shop (CWA)



Return Services League
 Coober Pedy Sub Branch Inc
 POBox 689, Coober Pedy SA 5723
 ABN 86 819 005 052

ANZAC DAY 2026
 Saturday 25 April 2026



6am - Dawn Service at RSL followed by Gunfire Breakfast
 10am - Anzac Day March leaving RSL - walking to the Memorial in front of Catholic Church on Hutchison Street.
 Service will start once Veterans arrive.
 12 - 2pm Lunch Available
 Come and try your hand at Two-Up
 5pm-6pm - Happy Hour
 6:15pm - 8pm Dinner Available
 Live Music

"LEST WE FORGET"

Andamooka: After Dark Stargazing (Daily)
 March offers incredible night sky clarity. The Andamooka Observatory runs its nightly "Nocturnal Tours" starting at 7 PM, combining high-tech telescope stargazing with UV-light opal "noodling".

Coober Pedy: The Painted Desert Tour (Every Saturday) with the **Outback Mail Man** who runs 4WD expeditions north to the Arkaringa Hills and the Moon Plains. It's another great way for tourists to see the colorful breakaways without navigating the remote tracks themselves

Twice Daily Tours – Oasis Tourist Park Coober Pedy
 Mornings Town Tour 8.30am
 Late Afternoon – Breakaways Sunset Tour 4.45 pm

SAVE THE DATES
OODNADATTA

2026	2027
28th Feb CRICKET	6th March CRICKET (TBC)
9th May GYMKHANA	8th May GYMKHANA
11th July BRONCO BRANDING	10th July BRONCO BRANDING

Coober Pedy Speedway: Easter Sunday.
 Offering thrilling, high energy dirt track racing under the stars.

ANZAC DAY

Coober Pedy Dawn Service: Saturday 25 April 2026.

A uniquely "Outback" service held at the RSL; followed by Gunfire Breakfast, then at 9.45am the Veterans and supporters march to the Town Centre for the 10am Service

Marree: A community-focused service that serves as a vital gathering for those traveling the Oodnadatta Track.

Twice Daily Tours – Oasis Tourist Park Coober Pedy
 Mornings Town Tour 8.30am

Late Afternoon – Breakaways Sunset Tour 3.30 pm

Coober Pedy Drive-in runs every weekend on a Friday or Saturday



night <http://www.cooberpedydrivein.org.au/>

Reminder for tourists that the **Coober Pedy Opal Festival** has moved to June 2026 (June 12–14). Plan for a return winter trip for the big street parade. Incorporating food, beverage, craft and market stalls, games and entertainment, the festival provides activities for all ages

William Creek Gymkhana and Motokhana March 28th 2026



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



Save the Date COOBER PEDY OPAL FESTIVAL



Office of the Public Advocate

FINANCIAL ABUSE CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE,

regardless of age, health status or living arrangements.

Abusers tend to target:

- * the elderly
- * people with a disability or mental illness
- * those who are socially isolated.

A financial abuser is anyone who manipulates, threatens, pressures or insists you give them access to your money, property or other valuables – or accesses your finances without your consent.

Contact Us

211 Victoria Square

Adelaide SA

(08) 8372 7550

pt.enquiries@sa.gov.au



FOR SALE

- * DAY OLD CHICK \$6.50,
- * 16 WEEKS POL PULLETS \$26.00,
- * 574 MAGILL ROAD
- MAGILL,
- *MAGILL GRAIN STORE,
- 08 8331 8159



Coober Pedy Drive In April Movies



Gates open 7pm
Movie starts
7:30pm



Please check website for further details

- *No walk ins under 15 years without parent or guardian
- * children to be supervised at all times

EMERGENCY 000 131 444 POLICE ASSISTANCE

DISCLAIMER

1. Opinions, letters, and Public notices published in the Coober Pedy Regional Times are not necessarily the views of the Editor, or Publisher.
2. The Coober Pedy Regional Times reserves the right to editor of refuse copy in accordance with newspaper Policies.
3. Due to concerns of bureaucratic victimisation, and allegation of bullying, community members may use a pen name, providing full name and details are provided to the Editor.

COOBER PEDY REGIONAL TIMES



Display EGN \$6.75 pcm/pcol (7 col)
Classi \$8.35 pcm/pcol (4 col)
editor@cooberpedytimes.com
Tel: 08 86725920

ASSOCIATIONS

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

Coober Pedy Retail, Business & Tourism Assoc. Inc

Committee Elected for 2026
 President: George Kountouris
 Vice President: George Russell OAM
 Treasurer: Nick Brellas
 Secretary/Public Officer: Nicky Kountouris Committee
 Members: Irene Spillman, Michael Farkas, Sean Harrison

<https://www.cooberpedy.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

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

Edward Street COOBER PEDY SA 5723
 Email: CooberPedy@rslsa.org.au

Coober Pedy Community Alliance

Chairperson: John Di Donna
 Vice Chair: George Rosewarne
Committee members
 Teena Rosewarne (JP)
 Margaret Mackay(Media Officer)
 Email: cpc.chairperson@gmail.com
 Meetings held monthly at Italian Club.



Coober Pedy Historical Society Inc

Committee Elected 20/10/2025
 Chairperson: Trish Turner
 Secretary: Jenny Davison
 Treasurer: Sue Britt
 Public Officer: Judy Harper
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/>

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 Blanus, 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: 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,
 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.cooberpedydrivein.org.au/documents.html>

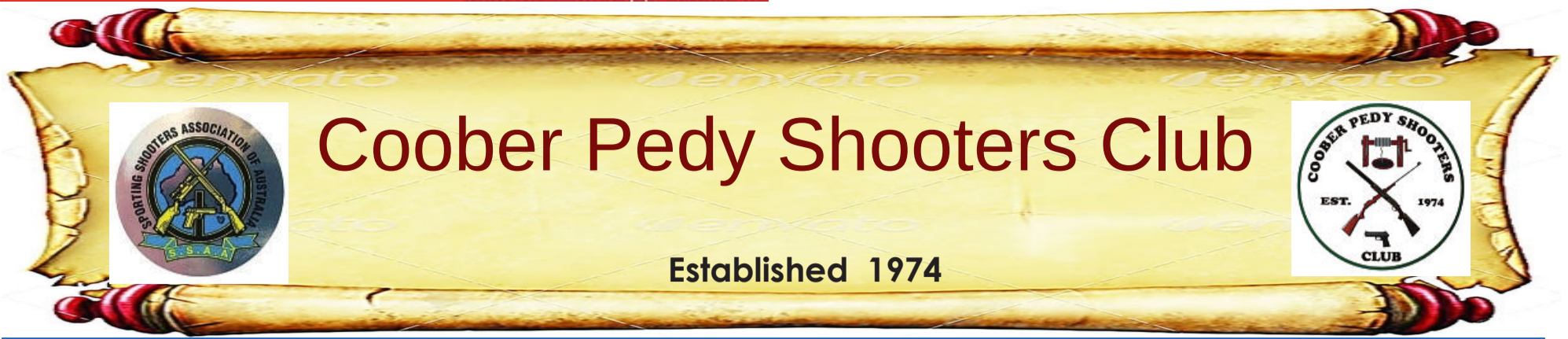
Coober Pedy Italian Club Inc

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
50M Rapid Fire
65 Rounds

<i>18 April</i>
<i>25 April</i>
<i>2 May</i>
<i>9 May</i>
<i>16 May</i>

- DISCIPLINES INCLUDE:**
- ◆ Air Rifle/ pistol
 - ◆ IPSC
 - ◆ ISSF
 - ◆ Rifle Metallic Silhouette
 - ◆ Combine Service
 - ◆ Black Powder
 - ◆ Service pistol
 - ◆ Shotgun
 - ◆ Steel Challenge
- Coober Pedy Shooter's Club supports:**
- ◆ Darts
 - ◆ Archery

Starting Time: 9:00 AM
Sundays
100m Benchrest Match

<i>19 April</i>
<i>26 April</i>
<i>3 May</i>
<i>10 May</i>
<i>17 May</i>



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

John Di Donna - Mobile 0427 649 389 - Email. 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>

