

COOBER PEDY WATER BILL SHOCK: New customer questions meter readings

A new Coober Pedy Council customer has questioned the accuracy and transparency of local water and electricity billing after receiving a water bill for \$13,731.24, only to be told later that the account was actually \$298.34 in credit.

The customer said the problem came to light on Friday when, after Australia Post failed to redirect their mail, they visited the Council office to obtain copies of their water and electricity bills.

“The water bill being for \$13,731.24. Like what the ?” the customer said. When they questioned the amount, they were told there must be a leak.

“I informed her that I used to work with Water Corp WA and that that much water would show a wet patch on the surface.”

The customer was then told it must be an underground leak. They questioned this explanation too, saying domestic water pipes are usually only about 600mm deep.

“I asked for the meter reading numbers. She flipped my bill and said it's there. It showed no meter reading but claimed I'd used 995,000 litres. That's right, nearly a million litres with no moisture present.”

Understandably angry, the customer left the office demanding an urgent call from the revenue manager, who apparently lived in Adelaide.

On the way home, the customer showed the bill to their husband, whose response was, “Get in the car.”

During their return trip to the Council office, the customer received a phone call from the Adelaide-based representative.

“She told me to keep calm as I was actually \$298.34 in credit?????? How, what, where?”

The customer was told that the billing office had gone back through three previous bills and discovered a mistake.

“I asked the question then why don't the Council office have the amended amount. HER WORDS: it would have shown on your next bill.”

The customer questioned what would have happened if they had paid the disputed amount.

“Too late after I've declared bankruptcy in the meantime,” they said, describing the potential consequences of receiving such a large bill.

They also asked whether a refund would have been issued if the bill had been paid.

“Answer no, it would be credited to your account.”

The customer has now received an amended account but says it provides no explanation of where the credit came from or why the original amount was so wrong.

“Yet again another bill with no meter readings on it. It seems it's all a guessing game.”

QUESTIONS OVER BILLING TRANSPARENCYThe customer is now questioning how water usage is calculated when bills do not display the meter readings needed to check the amounts charged.

They also raised concerns about electricity bills, saying these too arrive without meter readings that customers can use to check their consumption.

“We have nothing to compare or check against. What is going on here?”



A typical Coober Pedy water metre

The customer believes meter readings should be shown on bills unless smart meters are being used and has questioned whether the current billing practices comply with Australian requirements.

Their concerns raise several questions for Council and the relevant billing authorities.

How was an alleged usage of 995,000 litres calculated? Why was the original bill issued without a meter reading being shown? Why was the account correction not reflected sooner? And how many other customers may have received bills containing similar errors?

The customer also asked whether other Coober Pedy residents could be affected, raising the question of what checks are in place to ensure bills are accurate before they are issued.

These concerns warrant clarification from the responsible authorities. The circumstances of this individual account do not, by themselves, establish that other bills are incorrect or that any laws have been breached.

For Coober Pedy residents already concerned about the cost and management of essential services, clear explanations and transparent billing are important.

Customers should be able to understand what they are being charged for and have a practical way to check that their bills are correct.

In June 2024, a Coober Pedy homeowner received a DCCP invoice for \$141,787.59 for an alleged water leak that council says occurred after the owners had turned the water off at the metre. (CPRT - 25 September 2025)

While there were other circumstances that contradicted Council's allegations, the situation has still not been resolved.

There are a list of other residents who have been invoiced for large leaks, but with no visible evidence of any water leakages.



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 20,000 and rising.

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
<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 13 November 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 - "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.

DISCLAIMER: Opinions and letters published in The Coober Pedy Regional Times are not necessarily the views of the Editor, or Publisher.

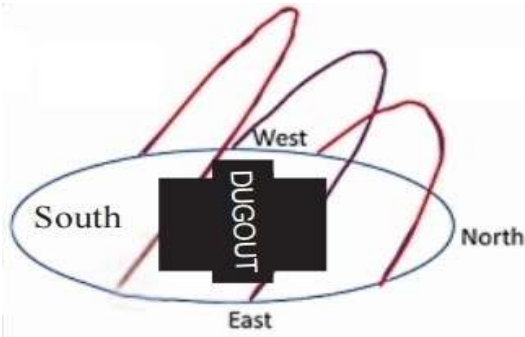
WEATHER COOBER PEDY

Coober Pedy							
Forecast issued at 3:45 am CDT on Friday 23 October 2026.							
	Fri. 23 Oct	Sat. 24 Oct	Sun. 25 Oct	Mon. 26 Oct	Tue. 27 Oct	Wed. 28 Oct	Thu. 29 Oct
	 Partly cloudy.	 Showers. Storm developing.	 Possible morning storm. Showers.	 Mostly sunny.	 Partly cloudy.	 Partly cloudy.	 Partly cloudy.
Max. Temperature	33 °C	37 °C	21 °C	23 °C	24 °C	24 °C	28 °C
Min. Temperature		22 °C	14 °C	10 °C	13 °C	14 °C	15 °C

The average annual rainfall at Coober Pedy is about 144 mm (5.68 inches), according to official climate records (BOM)

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.



Sunrise at Coober Pedy

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



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.

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



North and Flinders highways and byways, covering the entire Far North & East and Outback of South Australia.

DONNA was
South
Outback and is
resident of
As a business
a regular,
along the Far

POLICE REPORTS



Sgt Dave Finlayson



Snr Sgt Simon Haebich

Opal Mining Act 1995

Special powers of Warden's Court—Part 8

73—Cancellation of permit

- (1) The Warden's Court may, on the application of the Director, make one or both of the following orders:

(a) an order cancelling a precious stones prospecting permit;

(b) an order prohibiting a person from holding or obtaining a precious stones prospecting permit for a period specified in the order or until further order of the Warden's Court.

(2) An order must not be made under subsection (1) unless the Warden's Court is satisfied that the person against whom the order is made has contravened, or failed to comply with, a provision of this or another Act or regulations regulating mining operations (including mining operations that do not involve precious stones), and that the matter is of sufficient gravity to justify the making of the order.

Prominent opal-focused and major gem shows

featuring significant opal marketplaces from

November 2026 to June 2027:

- November 2026

 - American Opal Society's 56th Annual Opal, Gem, and Jewelry Show
 - Dates: November 1, 2026 (Runs October 31 – November 1)
 - Location: Velvet Rose Event Center, Orange, California, USA
 - Details: One of the premier opal-focused events in the US, featuring rough and cut opals, jewelry, expert cutting demonstrations, and opal-themed prizes. Check details on the American Opal Society Official Page.

January – February 2027 (The Tucson Showcase)

While not exclusively opal shows, the Tucson Gem, Mineral & Fossil Showcase in Arizona is the world's largest gathering of gem dealers, where massive quantities of Australian, Ethiopian, and Mexican opals are traded.

 - GJX Show (Gem & Jewelry Exchange)
 - Dates: January 30 – February 4, 2027
 - Location: GJX Main Tent (opposite the Convention Center), Tucson, Arizona, USA
 - Details: A major hub for specialised opal distributors, including prominent wholesalers like Black Opal Direct who utilise this event as their primary US trading location. Note: This is a wholesale-only event requiring trade credentials.



Long term Opal Miner Tony Caper on Olympic Field

Active Claims as at

23/10/2026

Andamooka – 176

Cooper Pedy - 465

Mintabie – 11

Stuart Creek – 1



Jock Riach, Opal Miner at Black Flag Field.

- The Tucson Gem Show on 22nd Street
 - Dates: January 28 – February 14, 2027
 - Location: 993 S. Freeway, Tucson, Arizona, USA
 - Details: Open to the general public, this massive marketplace hosts over 400 global vendors with an abundance of retail opal dealers, specimens, and finished jewelry.
- March 2027
- Cooper Pedy Gem Trade Show
 - Dates: March 26 – 28, 2027
 - Location: Croatian Club, Cooper Pedy, South Australia
 - Details: Located right in the heart of the "Opal Capital of the World," this specialized trade show lets buyers deal directly with local miners for rough and cut opals at direct trade prices.

- June 2027
- Fire & Rainbow: The Adelaide National Opal Showcase & Symposium
 - Dates: June 11 – 13, 2027 (Trade preview morning on June 11)
 - Location: South Australian Museum, Adelaide, South Australia
 - Details: A premium national event featuring the "Opal Vault", a showcase of rarely seen public and private opal collections. The main public show runs through the weekend alongside a formal National Opal Symposium that extends into Andamooka and Roxby Downs on June 16–17.
- Winton Opal Festival
 - Dates: July 7 – 9, 2027
 - Location: Elderslie Street, Winton, Queensland, Australia
 - Details: Organized by the Queensland Boulder Opal Association, the main street of Winton completely shuts down to traffic to host international dealers. It is the premier global hub specifically for buying rough parcels, cut stones, and jewelry made of spectacular Queensland Boulder Opal.

- Lightning Ridge Opal & Gem Festival
- Dates: July 28 – 31, 2027
- Location: Agate Street, Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia
- Details: The massive finale of the outback circuit hosting over 180 specialized stalls. This is the ultimate world marketplace for Black Opal, featuring millions of dollars in rough stones straight from the local fields, equipment suppliers, and the biennial Australian Opal Awards Gala Dinner.



DRINK DRIVER X 4 TIMES THE LEGAL LIMIT AT COOBER PEDY



19 October 2026. A driver has been reported for drink driving and driving unlicensed after being stopped at Coober Pedy on Monday.

About 12.15pm on Monday 19 October, police stopped a Toyota 4WD on Robins Boulevard, Coober Pedy and breath tested the driver.

She allegedly produced a blood alcohol reading of 0.216, more than four times the legal limit.

The vehicle was impounded and towed from the scene.

A 19-year-old woman from the Northern Territory was reported for drink driving and driving unlicensed. She will be summonsed to appear in court at a later date.

Police remind motorists that drink driving remains one of the major causes of serious and fatal crashes on South Australian roads and urge all road users to plan ahead and don't take the risk if you have consumed alcohol.

LOCAL TEENS CAUGHT ON CAMERA in BREAK & ENTERING SPREE

Coober Pedy is seeing an unpleasant wave of youth crime gangs stretching across the town area at present. This consists of small groups of two, three and four youths decked out with tools of intent.

Locals are noticing the presence of motorbikes cruising up and down streets in daylight hours potentially "casing homes".

Fortunately most people have invested in security measures these days and can get advanced warning and call the police who are on the job quickly and following things up.

Pictured are a group of teenagers sneaking around people's homes under the cover of darkness last week on the outskirts of our town.

- Emergency: 000 (Dial Triple Zero for life-threatening or active crimes)
- Non-Urgent Police Assistance: 131 444 (For past crimes, or attendance)
- Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000



Complete Employment Service Builds Local Business Opportunities in Coober Pedy

Complete Employment Service has delivered a three-day Small Business Workshop in Coober Pedy, helping local Remote Australia Employment Service (RAES) participants explore opportunities to start, develop and grow their own businesses.

Participants from Coober Pedy attended the workshop, along with a participant who travelled from Kingoonya, reflecting the interest in self-employment and small business opportunities across the region.

Facilitated by Dean Liebelt from Complete Employment Service at AMYAC Headquarters from 13 to 15 October 2026, the workshop focused on developing practical business skills, knowledge and confidence.

Participants explored key areas of small business operations, including planning, management, and business growth, with a strong focus on practical information applicable to their own business ideas and circumstances.

The workshop also provided participants with an opportunity to build their confidence in self-employment and consider how locally owned businesses can contribute to economic participation and employment opportunities within their communities.



Facilitator Dean Liebelt with students: Skye at Triple S Studios, is keen to start a massage business; Michelle (not present) Lize Lee offers a friendly underground hairdressing service to customers old and new; Mark from Barnden Holdings who travelled from Kingoonya specialises in Transport and Civil, refrigeration, scrap, recycling, and hot shots was attending the course to perfect his skills at small business.

FAULTLINES WEAVING THEIR WAY ACROSS SOUTHERN AUSTRALIA

New discoveries reveal a continent that is still moving

Australia is not as geologically stable as many people think.

Despite popular belief, this ancient continent has a long history of earthquakes, moving faultlines and mountain building. New research continues to reveal evidence of geological activity that has shaped, and is still shaping, parts of southern Australia.

In 2008, research by geologists at the University of Melbourne highlighted faultlines stretching across areas of South Australia and Victoria, including the Flinders Ranges and the Adelaide region.

Since then, further investigations have added to our understanding of these faults and the potential risks they pose to communities and infrastructure.

Australia lies within the Indo-Australian Plate rather than on one of the major boundaries between tectonic plates. However, stresses build up within the continent as the plate moves, and these stresses can eventually be released through earthquakes.

A major earthquake leaves its mark in the outback

On 5 April 2026, a magnitude-5.5 earthquake struck near Amata in South Australia's Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands, close to the Northern Territory border.

The earthquake was followed by aftershocks and provided researchers with an opportunity to investigate how the ground responds when a fault moves.

Geologists from the University of Melbourne, working with Geoscience Australia, subsequently examined a surface rupture extending several kilometres. Parts of the ground had been displaced vertically by about half a metre.

Such ruptures are particularly valuable to scientists because they reveal where the Earth's crust has moved. By examining the cracks, displaced rock and surrounding landscape, researchers can investigate how the earthquake occurred and how the ground responded.

The findings may also help scientists better understand earthquake effects in other areas where similar geological structures exist, including regions closer to Adelaide.

The Flinders Ranges and Adelaide remain important

South Australia has a long record of earthquake activity.

The 1954 Adelaide earthquake caused considerable damage across the city. Earthquakes near Beachport in 1897 and Warooka in 1902 also demonstrated that damaging events can occur in different parts of the state.

In June 2022, Geoscience Australia reported on scientific investigations along the Willunga Fault, approximately 40 kilometres south of Adelaide.

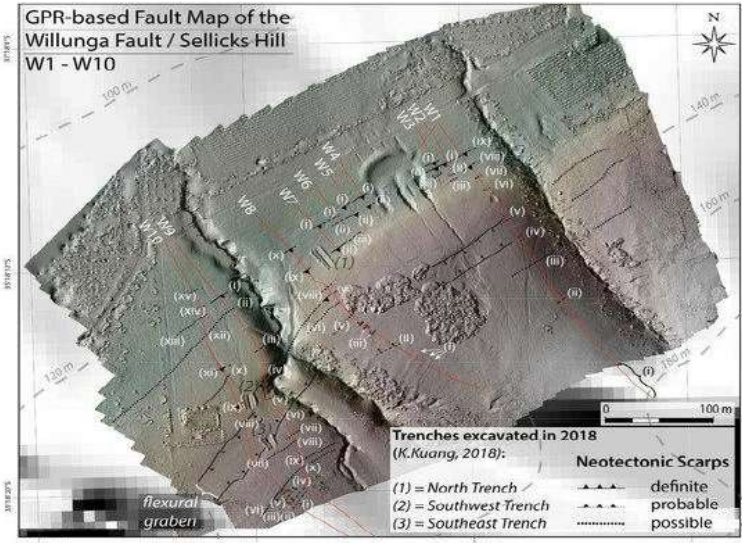
Researchers excavated two large trenches across the fault, looking for evidence of ancient earthquakes preserved in layers of soil and sediment.

When an earthquake moves a fault, previously continuous layers can become displaced. By examining and dating these layers, scientists can build a picture of past earthquakes and estimate how frequently major events may have occurred.

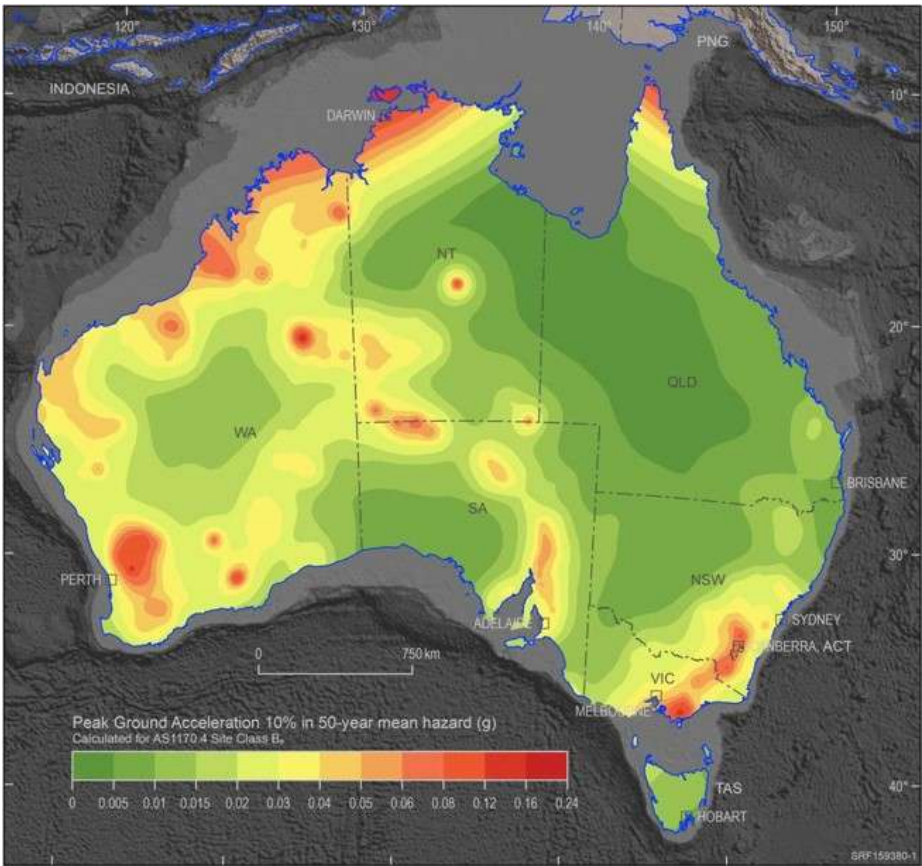
The active section of the Willunga Fault investigated by researchers extends for at least 55 kilometres and could potentially produce an earthquake as large as magnitude 7.2.

This is a significant finding for the Adelaide region, where buildings, transport networks and other infrastructure could be exposed to strong ground shaking.

It does not mean such an earthquake is imminent. The purpose of the research is to understand the geological evidence and improve assessments of future earthquake hazards.



Willunga Fault research
Scientists examining displaced geological layers south of Adelaide.
[Geoscience Australia — Fieldwork near Adelaide](#)



Australian earthquake-hazard map.
Shows the national distribution of earthquake ground-shaking hazard.
Geoscience Australia — National Seismic Hazard Assessment

The landscape holds evidence of past movements

The Flinders Ranges and surrounding areas provide another important record of geological change.

The ranges, valleys and folded rock formations have developed through enormous periods of geological activity. Earthquakes continue to occur in the broader region, including areas between Quorn and Leigh Creek.

Scientists study the locations of these earthquakes alongside mapped faults and the physical evidence preserved in the landscape.

The dry conditions across much of inland Australia can help preserve geological features that might otherwise be eroded or obscured. Ancient fault scarps, displaced rock layers and changes in landforms can provide clues to earthquakes that occurred long before modern instruments existed.

In 2016, a magnitude-6.0 earthquake in the Petermann Ranges, near the Northern Territory and South Australian border region, produced a surface rupture extending about 21 kilometres.

Research using satellite imagery and field observations helped scientists measure the ground displacement and investigate how the fault moved.

These findings demonstrate that significant earthquakes are not confined to Australia's coastal cities.

A new picture of Australia's earthquake hazards

In December 2024, Geoscience Australia released its updated National Seismic Hazard Assessment, incorporating new earthquake records, revised models and additional geological evidence.

The assessment identified areas where the potential for strong ground shaking was higher than previously estimated, including Darwin and parts of Victoria's eastern highlands extending towards the Latrobe Valley.

Researchers also incorporated information from more recent earthquakes to improve their understanding of the forces acting within the continent.

The assessment helps governments, engineers and emergency services understand where earthquake hazards need to be considered when planning buildings, infrastructure and emergency responses.

It is not a prediction of when the next earthquake will occur. Instead, it estimates the likelihood of ground shaking over time, using the best available scientific evidence.

As new faults are identified and further research becomes available, the assessment can be refined.

Continued next page

FAULTLINES WEAVING THEIR WAY ACROSS SOUTHERN AUSTRALIA

Can scientists predict the next big earthquake?

Not with any certainty. Scientists can identify faults, monitor earthquakes, examine evidence of ancient ground movements and estimate the likelihood of future seismic activity.

However, they cannot reliably predict the exact date, location and magnitude of the next major earthquake. Some faults remain quiet for thousands of years before moving again. Others produce smaller earthquakes without a major rupture.

The absence of frequent tremors does not necessarily mean a fault is inactive. Equally, the discovery of an old fault does not automatically mean a major earthquake is about to happen. This is why continued geological research and accurate earthquake monitoring are important.

What does this mean for South Australians?

The aim of earthquake research is not to create alarm, but to improve preparedness.

Geoscience Australia's work helps inform building standards, infrastructure planning and emergency management. It also provides evidence that can help identify buildings and facilities that may be vulnerable to earthquake damage.

For residents, knowing how to respond during an earthquake is a sensible precaution. The recommended advice is to Drop, Cover and Hold On until the shaking stops.

The April 2026 earthquake near Amata is a reminder that significant seismic events can occur in remote parts of South Australia, as well as in more populated regions.

It also demonstrates the value of examining the physical evidence left behind. A rupture in a remote landscape can provide information that improves our understanding of earthquake hazards elsewhere.



Surface rupture in Central Australia
An established research example illustrating how earthquakes leave physical evidence in remote landscapes.
[University of Melbourne — When Central Australia slipped and trembled](#)

The ground beneath us is still changing

When CPRT published its original article in 2008, researchers were already finding evidence that southern Australia was more geologically active than many people realised.

Eighteen years later, new investigations, earthquake records and improved scientific models have added to that knowledge.

From the Adelaide region to the Flinders Ranges and the far north of South Australia, scientists continue to investigate the faults and geological processes that have shaped the continent.

We cannot know exactly when the next major earthquake will occur. But understanding the evidence left by previous events can help us better assess the risks and prepare for the future.

Australia may be an ancient continent, but its geological story is far from finished.

Geoscience Australia (Canberra)

Long-range forecasts and climate monitoring

Southern Hemisphere Monitoring

For the latest on El Niño, La Niña, the Indian Ocean Dipole and Southern Ocean conditions

Long-range forecast

View the video

<https://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/video>

Long-range forecast overview - Issued: 22 October 2026
The long-range forecast for November to January shows: El Nino continues to strengthen.

Rainfall is likely to be above average for large parts of Australia, below average in parts of the far north Qld and south-east.
Daytime temperatures are very likely to be above average across most of Australia.
Overnight temperatures are very likely to be above average across most of Australia.

The South Australian Government is strengthening its Code Red heat response to help people sleeping rough during extreme heat.

The changes are expected to begin in early November, ahead of summer
MORE SHELTER & SUPPORT: More trained staff will be available at Adelaide's Westcare Centre when Code Red is activated.

CLEARER TEMPERATURE WARNINGS: A new trigger is being considered. Code Red could be activated when daytime temperatures exceed 38°C and overnight temperatures stay at 25°C or above, or when an extreme heatwave is forecast. This would allow more people to access extra support, including overnight shelter where available.

STRONGER CODE RED - AHEAD OF SUMMER

Water and supplies ready earlier:** Homelessness services will be able to receive funding sooner, helping them prepare with drinking water and other essential supplies before extreme heat arrives. This is particularly important for regional and remote communities.

Further improvements are planned by February 2027, with feedback from services and people who have experienced homelessness to help shape future responses.

Extreme heat can be life-threatening for people sleeping outdoors, particularly when temperatures remain high overnight. The changes aim to make help easier to access and ensure services are better prepared before dangerous conditions arrive.



TODAY. TOMORROW. ONE DAY AT A TIME.

medicare
Mental Health Centre

You don't have to go it alone
with your mental health

Medicare Mental Health has a range of free, connected services.
Visit the website, talk to a qualified mental health practitioner over the phone,
or find a Medicare Mental Health Centre near you.

FREE TO ACCESS. NO REFERRAL. NO APPOINTMENT.

Call 1800 595 212 or visit medicarementalhealth.gov.au

medicare
Mental Health


Australian Government

Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra.



2026/27 Fire Danger Season
dates Fire Ban District, Start
Finish

Adelaide Metropolitan TBA TBA

Eastern Eyre Peninsula 15
October 2026, 15 April 2027

Flinders 15 October 2026, 5 April
2027

Kangaroo Island TBA TBA

Lower Eyre Peninsula 15 Nov-
ember 2026 - 15 April 2027

Lower South East 1 November
2026 30 April 2027

Mid North 1 November 2026 30
April 2027

Mount Lofty Ranges TBA TBA

Murraylands 1 November 2026 -
30 April 2027

North East Pastoral -15 October
2026 -15 April 2027

North West Pastoral 15 October
2026 15 April 2027

Riverland 1 November 2026 - 30
April 2027

Upper South East 1 November
2026 30 April 2027

West Coast 15 October 2026 15
April 2027

Yorke Peninsula 1 November
2026 30 April 2027



GLENDAMBO DISTRICT SPORTS CLUB IS FEELING PROUD

On behalf of everyone at the Glendambo District Sports Club, we would like to say a HUGE thank you to our amazing competitors, volunteers, spectators and first-timers for making our 110th gymkhana simply the best. Congratulations to our winners on the day along with our best dressed and raffle champions!

- Encouragement award horse - Makenna Nutt
- Encouragement award bike - Millah Finlay
- Leading pony - Buzz (Eliza Bayley)
- Leading horse - Darky (Cuffe family)
- Leading junior rider horse - Maya Beart
- Leading senior rider horse - Maia Tschiner
- Leading juvenile rider bike - Eli Rankin
- Leading senior rider bike - Hayden Rankin and Logan Williams (tied)

The GDSC would like to offer Logan a sincere apology as we announced the incorrect winner at our presentations due to a miscount. Logan has humbly accepted our apology and asked only for a fair 6-figure compensation . We will get a new photo up of Logan and Hayden soon. Our best dressed were (and thank you to our mystery judge):

- Best dressed girl - Magenta Williams in denim and red
 - Best dressed boy - Harrison Nutt in a dapper ensemble
 - Best dressed woman - Katrina Morris in western splendour
 - Best dressed man - Colin Greenfield in resplendent red silk
- Our lucky raffle winners were:
- 'One for the kids' - Nick Spargo
 - 'One for the gals' - Tianah Sampson
 - 'One for the shed' - Ryder Rankin (who promptly sold it to his father)

I would like to offer a personal thanks to Jaquarra for taking photos (these will be put on FB in due course), Leah Williams' family for their amazing efforts in the kitchen and cleaning, and Henry and Lucy Graetz from Nutrien for the wildly successful auctioning skills.

It's only 363 days to go until our next gymkhana weekend but for now, the committee needs a well deserved rest for putting on a crazy good show. Thank you everyone



PeakIRON MINES

GLENDAMBO

GYMKHANA/MOTOKHANA

OCTOBER 10TH 2026

110th Anniversary

FRIDAY NIGHT EVENTS & NW ICOPA BBQ FROM 4PM

FRIDAY BAR OPENS FROM 4PM EVENTS FROM 5PM

FRIDAY NIGHT EVENTS

WULP CRACKING - ADULTS AND KIDS
COBN HOLE
TILTING THE RING - JUNIOR, JUVENILE AND SENIOR HORSE
GO SLOW - JUNIOR BIKES
KEYHOLE - JUNIOR BIKES
WALK, RUN, RIDE - JUVENILE BIKES
MONO BETWEEN THE BARRELS

FRIDAY BAR OPENS FROM 4PM EVENTS FROM 5PM

SATURDAY NOVELTIES

FOOT RACES
EGG TOSS
LONGEST KICK
IRON GUT
ON-FOOT BARREL RACE
KIDS EVENTS

CASH PRIZES

PLATINUM SPONSORS

BHP PeakK IRON MINES

Gold sponsors

Barton Gold, Nutrien, OMS, RANKIN, MILEGATING PEOPLE

Silver sponsors

mogas, W, EAT & FEEL, Edgars, AVO, B&P RANKIN

Bronze sponsors

B&B, B, C&D, Chaymans, CLOVER, B&P RANKIN

No wristband - No service

President: Peter Rankin 0448001306 peter.rankin@outlook.com
Secretary: Dani Chapman 0427295706 dchapman@jagmail.com

Readers and spectators events are extremely dangerous international vehicles in addition, spectators can and in a sudden and unexpected death may require first aid or resuscitation and medical attention. By entering these premises, you accept the risks associated with these activities.



ITALIAN CLUB
COOBER PEDY

Melbourne CUP

AT THE ITALIAN CLUB
COOBER PEDY

TUESDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2026

DOORS OPEN FROM
12PM

CHAMPAGNE
ON ARRIVAL

SWEEPS
CASH ONLY

RACING LIVE
ON THE BIG SCREEN

MAIN RACE AT
2.30PM

ROAST LUNCH
AVAILABLE FROM 12PM
\$27 A PLATE - ROAST PORK & VEGETABLES
CASH ONLY!

Message Dolly on 0455 872 141
to pre book your meals - limited number
of meals will be available.

PRIZES FOR
BEST DRESSED
Male & Female



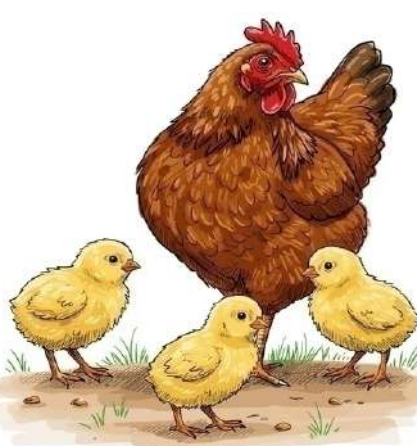
Dress to Impress

Help keep the Flying Doctor flying.



<https://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/sant/support-us/donate-form/>

The RFDS is a not-for-profit organisation that relies on fund-raising and donations to bridge the gap in operational funding, and to finance replacement aircraft, medical equipment and other major capital initiatives.



FOR SALE

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

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 Historical Society
A.G.M.

2 pm on Sunday 25th October 2026 at the School Library

All members and friends are invited to attend as we review the past year and elect office bearers for 2027

This will be followed with a screening of several historic movies of Coober Pedy



The Coober Pedy Cave Dwellers - 1942



Walkabout - 1958



The Coober Pedy Solar Still c.1966

Afternoon tea to follow - All welcome

PUBLIC NOTICE - FAR NORTH HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGM



Government of South Australia
Far North Health Advisory Council

Far North Health Advisory Council Inc.

Annual General Meeting

Looking for an opportunity to advocate for your local community about health services?

The Far North Health Advisory Council (FNHAC) advises Eyre and Far North Local Health Network about local health and aged care services.

Join FNHAC's Annual General Meeting and have your say; you might even want to join the HAC.

When: Wednesday 4 November 2026 at 5.00pm

Where: Coober Pedy Community Health Centre (meeting room), as well as online via teams.

For more information, go to Far North Health Advisory Council or contact Health.EFNLHNCommunications@sa.gov.au

All welcome.

RATKO

PTY LTD

ASBESTOS REMOVAL

DEMOLITION

EARTHWORKS

LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

Proudly servicing Coober Pedy and surrounding regions

0422 101 731

COOBER PEDY REGIONAL TIMES



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

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

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



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

GOLF 12.00 noon

<https://www.cooberpedygolfclub.com.au/play-a-round>

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



OCTOBER

Saturday 10 October to Saturday 17 October – Alice
Springs Show: Running alongside the Masters
Games, bringing community exhibits, entertainment,
and agricultural displays to town.
Saturday 31 October Coober Pedy Speedway

NOVEMBER

Sunday 1 November to Monday 30 November
Saturday 21 November Coober Pedy Speedway

DECEMBER

Friday 25 December Christmas Day
Thursday 31 December New Year's Eve Community
Celebrations.

National Opal Symposium 2027
Wednesday 16 & Thursday 17 June
2027. Andamooka & Roxby Downs



FIRE & RAINBOW

South Australian Opal, Gemstone & Mineral Show

THE SHOW: 11-13 JUNE 2027

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM | ADELAIDE

Event week: 7-13 June 2027

OPENING THE OPAL VAULT

A premium Museum-backed opal event buyers and exhibitors cannot afford to miss.

In June 2027, Fire & Rainbow brings opal buyers, exhibitors, collectors, makers, regional voices and the public into the South Australian Museum for a one-of-a-kind celebration of South Australian opal, the Far North and the state's mineral story.

Special Museum drawcard

The event will feature significant South Australian Museum opal stories and special collection moments, including rarely publicly seen opal collection material where approved by the Museum and subject to curatorial, conservation and security settings.

MAIN PUBLIC SHOW Friday 11 - Sunday 13 June 2027	TRADE ONLY Friday morning 11 June 2027
SCHOOL / EDUCATION DAYS Wednesday 9 - Thursday 10 June 2027	GALA CELEBRATION NIGHT Friday 11 June 2027

Why buyers, trade and exhibitors need to be there

- Trade-first access for accredited buyers and invited networks
- Curated opal, gemstone, jewellery, mineral and geoscience exhibitors
- Premium Museum setting, collection stories, public program and Friday gala

EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST hello@saogma.com.au

For trade, exhibitor, buyer, sponsor and partner conversations. Booths and floorplan information to follow.

Stay on after Adelaide: National Opal Symposium 16-17 June 2027 in Andamooka and Roxby Downs.

Presented by the South Australian Opal, Gemstone and Mineral Association

In major partnership with the South Australian Museum | An annual South Australian event

Fire & Rainbow 2027 | Show days 11-13 June 2027 | hello@saogma.com.au

EVENT CALENDAR COOBER PEDY & OUTBACK

SAVE THE DATES



STUART HIGHWAY CORRIDOR PIT STOPS in SA

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 Coober Pedy for fuel and a classic pub meal.

Coober 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 Coober 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.



COMMUNITY

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
Committee Elected for 2024-2026

Coober Pedy Shooters Club Inc

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 (July2026)

President: Mick Cox
Vice-President: Leighton Bosswell
Secretary: Kingsley Kammermann
Treasurer: Miriam Kammermann
Committee Members:
Raylene Hagel
Roz Jazepczyk
Michael Stocks
Frank Farr
Freda Farr
Tim O'Reilly
Edward Street COOBER PEDY
Email: CooberPedy@rslsa.org.au

Coober Pedy Motor Club - Speedway

Executive Committee Members
Acting President - Mick Frakas Mob
0439596489
Acting Vice President - Verdun Myat
Secretary - Fiona Scutter
Treasurer - Irene Spillmann
General enquires 0428356669

Coober Pedy Community Alliance

Chairperson: John Di Donna
Vice Chair: George Rosewarne
Committee members
Teena Rosewarne (JP)
(Media Officer) Margaret Mackay
[Email: cpca.chairperson@gmail.com](mailto:cpca.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 Garner
Treasurer:
Public Officer: Patsy Anne Garner
Social Media Officer:
Committee member:
Committee member:
<https://www.dustyradio.com.au/>



COOBER PEDY MINERS ASSOC.

Coober Pedy SA 3723
Committee Elected for 2026/27
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:
Grounds Keeper: Dylan Lewis Bar Manager:
Stephen Borrett
Committee Members: Sue Britt, Bob Martin
Contact: cooberpedygolfclub@gmail.com

Coober Pedy Area School
Governing Council 2026

Maurice Saah (Principal)
Elected Staff Representative: Veronika Witham
Elected Parent Members: Sabrina Troisi; Jo Anne Vanajek; Roger Vanajek; Ariane Montminy-Roberge; Sarah Rethus; Rukmalee Dissanayake
Elected Community Member; Gary Herdegen
Student Representatives; Satkirat Kaur; Mitchell Hoad
Election of office holders (Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer) will take place on 16th June, 2026

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

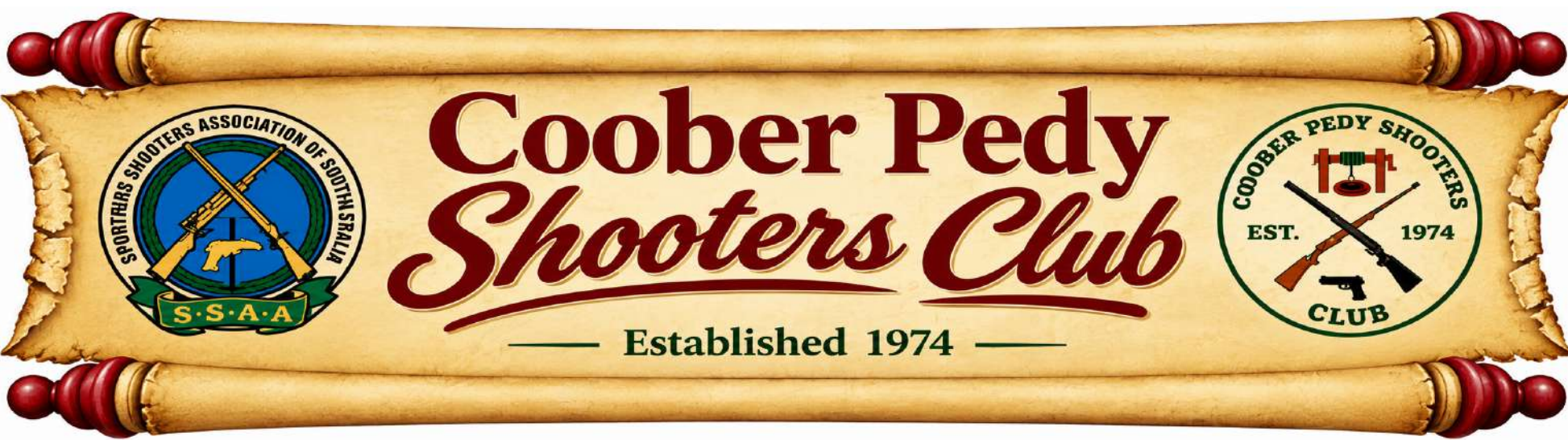
Committee Elected 18-12-2024
President - Corey Edwards;
Secretary - Tara-Jane Smith
Treasurer – Emily Pennisi
Committee members
Catherine Bell, Rachel Crothers,
David Hammermeister

COOBER PEDY CFS (Sept 2026)



Brigade Captain - Ann Gerschwitz
Administration & Training Coordinator - Ann Gerschwitz
1st Lieutenant - Linda Buckeridge
OH&S Coordinator - Linda Buckeridge
2nd Lieutenant - Phil Gerschwitz
Senior Firefighter - Rajith Bandara
Communication Coordinator - Rajith Bandara
Senior Firefighter - Christian Richards (Crispy)
Equipment Coordinator - Jesse Manfred
Donna Ilkin - Finance & Logistics Coordinator





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
25m/ Rapid fire

10 October
17 October
24 October
31 October
7 November

- 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
50 m Rapid Fire Benchrest

11 October
18 October
25 October
1 November
4 November

Thank you to our
Sponsors



Thank you to our
Sponsors

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
Robert Gigos - - Email cpssc.treasurer@gmail.com
John Di Donna - Mobile 0427 649 389 - Email. cpssc.secretary@gmail.com



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

