

BLACK JACK KYRIAKOS: “THE FIELD DIDN’T HAVE A NAME - WE CALLED IT ZORBA”

by Margaret Mackay ©

Black Jack Kyriakos Nalpantidis was part of the company that found the first opal at a new area at Cooper Pedy in c.1967 and named that field Zorba.

Black Jack or “Zorba 2” as he was often called grew up in Macedonia, Greece during a Greek Civil War that left the country economically frail for many years.

In 1962 Jack, then aged 19, set sail for Australia, looking for a better life that would include work, home, and family. His brother John was already living in Australia and so after disembarking at Port Melbourne in 1962, Jack left the following day for Port MacDonnell near Mount Gambier in South Australia to stay with his brother.

It was at Port MacDonnell that Jack began hearing about the millions of pounds that other Greeks were finding on the opal fields at Cooper Pedy. Amounts like £40,000, and £100,000 were being related from the opal fields from opal miners such as George Christianos, Chris Saros, Nick Macris, and Arthur Darvas. Jack said that he started calculating how quickly he could buy a house if he was able to find a decent parcel of opal.

That year, Jack took a job grape-picking to earn enough money for tools and equipment. He needed picks, augers a compressor, and so on. The following year [1963] Jack embarked on what would be an ongoing love affair with opal mining and Cooper Pedy.

“At first I lived in a tin shed on the Old 10 Mile Field”, said Jack. “Peter and Ross Christianos had found a lot of opal there, but it was a long time coming. They had become disillusioned with the Old Ten Mile and wanted to pack up and leave, but they had run up a bill with Bepi Coro, who was insisting that they pay their bill or there would be no more credit.”

“Nobody had any money, so we asked one Greek fellow who had escaped from a ship and was hiding out in Cooper Pedy, if he had any money and he said yes. We asked him if he would pay Bepi’s bill and he did. It was a few thousand pounds.”

“Bepi then gave Peter and Ross more credit for fuel. They sunk a new shaft and found c £1Million parcel of opal.

By this time Jack was around 20-21 years of age and had begun a partnership with Harry Tepelidis and Alex Kosmidis. Sadly there was no opal found at the Old 10 Mile by these partners. They changed fields and went out to the 25 Mile. Again, no opal was found, so Jack returned to Adelaide for a few years.

In 1965 Jack returned to Cooper Pedy, this time with the three Lucas brothers; Luke and the twins Anthony and Lee.

“We all had equipment and so we started sinking shafts in a new area that was all virgin ground. In 1966 or 67 we went to register our claims, but because it was a new area it didn’t have a name. We were then privileged to be asked to give this field its name. We called it Zorba.”



Margaret Mackay ©

Above: Roger Bulovic; Black Jack Kyriakos and partner Christian Christianos; with Nick Dimitropoulos and Dean Bulovic

“Finally we found that first parcel of opal on Zorba. There were 5 partners by then. Peter Katoulis and Nick Perdelis had joined our company. Australia had begun using decimal currency in 1966 and we received \$25K NET each .”

“After we found that first parcel of opal on Zorba, another 20 companies pegged claims there. By 1969/70 there were between 150 and 200 claims pegged on Zorba, and increasing,” Jack told us.

Jack was married in 1968. He and his wife Alexandra had three children, and now 6 grandchildren. Jack remained in Adelaide between 1969 and 1971, then returned to Cooper Pedy from 1971 to 1975 occasionally mining at Mintabie which was at that time considered an outpost of Cooper Pedy.

In 2022, and fast approaching 80 years old, Jack is still chasing the dream at Cooper Pedy This time Jack wants to finish what he left behind 50 years ago. He sunk a shaft way back then but didn’t mine it. This week with Nick Dimitropoulos as driller they cut ground again.

Together with Christian Christianos, son of Eli [Elias] Christianos they plan on investigating the potential of the area and gaining satisfaction one way or the other.

Christian says of their venture, “The best is yet to come”.



Margaret Mackay ©

Black Jack and Christian - first day of drilling (Easter Monday 2022)

2022 = Year 4 and the reasons for Administration still exist.
Pg 4

PLAYGROUND HEALTH CONCERNS ESCALATE DURING APRIL
Pgs 5, 6

Lee Mott - article “Leaving the sting out of Conflict”
Pg 8

ABOUT US

The annual rainfall in the area is around 175 mm (5 inches) per annum

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

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MAILING LIST

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Next Newspapers

Bi Monthly

- Friday 06 May 2022
- Friday 20 May 2022
- Friday 10 Jun 2022
- Friday 24 Jun 2022
- Friday 08 Jul 2022

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Classified \$8.15 per cm/col

Bookings and Material
must be in TUES prior to publication

The Coober Pedy Regional Times "Your Outback Communities Newspaper"

CPRT became a FREE Newspaper in 2006 and increased its distribution to 4,500 hard copies + Free Online Newspaper, promoting news, events thus distributing advertising to tourists and to nearby communities and towns. The CPRT receives no external funding.

A local newspaper is the voice of the people. A truly free and independent press is a vital component of any healthy democratic society. [...] *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. Advertising rates are in the column above.

Letters to Editor should be sent by email where possible and must be relevant to the community. Potentially defamatory comments will be edited or deleted. Letters to Editor need to be signed, but a pen name can be published.

1.) GROUPS & SPONSORSHIP

You or your group may wish to send a News Article. Aim for a 300 - 500 word story in plain text and a suitable photo/s.

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








3.) Advertisers may be entitled to editorials

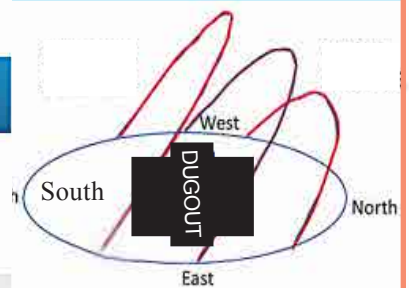
4.) Sponsorship for clubs or community programs is by arrangement

5.) Names and Captions must accompany photos + DO NOT REDUCE PHOTOS

7 DAYS WEATHER at COOBER PEDY Oodnadatta Tarcoola Andamooka Roxby Downs

7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST: COOBER PEDY

	FRI Apr 22	SAT Apr 23	SUN Apr 24	MON Apr 25	TUE Apr 26	WED Apr 27	THU Apr 28
Summary	 Mostly sunny	 Sunny	 Heavy showers	 Possible shower	 Mostly sunny	 Mostly sunny	 Mostly sunny
Maximum	25°C	25°C	23°C	21°C	25°C	28°C	26°C
Minimum	16°C	14°C	14°C	16°C	16°C	18°C	16°C
Chance of Rain Likely Amount	5% < 1mm	60% 1-5mm	90% 10-20mm	80% 5-10mm	30% < 1mm	10% < 1mm	30% < 1mm
UV Index	High	High	High	High	High		
Frost Risk	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	9am 3pm	9am 3pm	9am 3pm	9am 3pm	9am 3pm	9am 3pm	9am 3pm
Wind Speed	26km/h ESE	19km/h ESE	25km/h ESE	21km/h SE	18km/h SE	17km/h E	19km/h E
	15km/h ENE	11km/h N	28km/h NNE	22km/h N	19km/h WNW	10km/h WSW	



In 2022, the winter solstice in Australia (southern hemisphere) will occur on Tuesday, June 21, at sharp 20:14 Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST).

Local Scribes



Lee Mott
Emotional health & wellbeing



Jacqui Boland
Youth Sport & Rec



Slippo & Slidey
Current Affairs [Satire]



Des Roffey
Accountability and Transparency



John Di Donna
Shooters Club
Opinion & Commentary

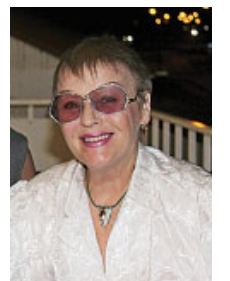


Caroline Thomas
Copper Hills

Why is democracy important - short answer?

Democracy provides all the citizens some basic rights through which they can give their opinion.

Democracy provides the chance to all the citizens to choose their representatives, and change them, if they do not work according to their wishes.



Margaret Mackay
Editor

Coober Pedy is THE OPAL CAPITAL OF THE WORLD The true Jewel of South Australia an Underground Town built on the back of opal mining

❑ GO NOODLING FOR OPAL at THE JEWELLER SHOP - Umoona Road/Jeweller Shop Road near town.

❑ While in town take an OPAL FIELDS TOUR
You'll believe you're on Mars.

❑ Be sure to visit THE UNDERGROUND CHURCHES

❑ AMAZING UNDERGROUND HOMES - DUGOUTS
(at least 1500 people living underground)

❑ UNDERGROUND DUGOUT AS A BUNKER
Think about it!

❑ Take a tour and see film locations like Mad Max: Beyond Thunderdome and Red Planet including the PAINTED DESERT, the spectacular BREAKAWAYS and the MOON PLAIN

❑ Enjoy an evening at the Coober Pedy DRIVE-IN usually on a Saturday Night

❑ During Easter an OPAL FESTIVE & GEM TRADE SHOW is held


❑ OPAL FIELDS GOLF COURSE - bring your own green


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ZORBA 2





Black Jack Kyriakos, founder of Zorba Field, celebrates opal country before drilling




Christian Christianos takes in the Gem Trade Show




Phil Gerschwitz of Fossil Creations attracting buyers' attention


OPAL FIELDS ROUND-UP



Prospect Field now carrying 26 claims - must be a reason



14 Mile Field is in second place with 28 claims - always a popular field



Zorba Field gets first place with 41 claims pegged; still the busiest



New field being prospected west of town. It's tipped to be a good one! Watch this space..




Stop knocking off batteries and diesel. I won't ask again because I know who you are.




Eye in the sky! Word is that the Mines Department now have drones operating!



2022 tipped to be the big year for the boom/bust changeover. Good luck Lickers



KEEP DIGGING WARRIORS and thanks miners for your tips and commentary





Opal mining die-hards, MARK and STUART JACKSON (Father and Son OPAL-TEAM) visiting Cooper Pedy Easter weekend for the Gem Trade Show. Seen here road testing the new Cooper Pedy Outback Bar & Grill LAGER!



At the Outback Bar & Grill, Black Jack Kyriakos caught up with Des Roffey a former cop posted at Cooper Pedy in the 70s. The two men remembered each other immediately and had lots to talk about over an OBG Lager or two.

OPAL MINING FEES effective 1st JULY 2021			
New or Renew PSPP	\$92.50	Claim Renewal - 12 months	
2nds & ODL	\$ 9.95 + \$ 9.95	Small	\$164.00
Replacement Plates		Large	\$327.00
X1	\$7.75 + \$18.20 = \$25.95	X/Large	\$491.00
X2	\$15.50 + \$18.20 = \$33.70	Claim Registration - 3 months	
X3	\$23.25 + \$18.20 = \$42.45	Small	\$54.50
X4	\$31.00 + \$18.20 = \$49.20	Large	\$109.00
Recovery of Posts	\$26.50	X/Large	\$164.00
		ODL	\$130.00

Active claims at the 3 fields are currently:

Claims in Andamooka 122

Claims in Cooper Pedy 373

Claims in Mintabie 12

Total 507



**2022 = Year 4 and
the reasons for
Administration still
exist**

COOBER PEDY COUNCIL HAS NOT ASKED FOR A BAILOUT

Reprinted from: Thursday 13 December 2018 Page 7

By Margaret Mackay

The Australian Taxpayers' Alliance (ATA), a 75,000+ member grassroots advocacy group representing Australia's taxpayers has called for Coober Pedy council to be put into administration to shield taxpayers from footing the bill for its [alleged] \$6 million+ debts racked up by maladministration, and demanded greater transparency in spending by councils across the nation through an online expenditure portal in order to deliver accountability and fairness for taxpayers.

In a media release distributed widely Satya Marar, ATA Director of Policy said, "Hardworking South Australian taxpayers don't deserve to see their money spent on undoing the mistakes of incompetent public officials.

Whilst the ATA and Mr Marar make some very good points they have not considered that Coober Pedy is also in South Australia and are perhaps unwittingly suggesting to punish the taxpayers of this town.

Coober Pedy's newly elected Mayor, Les Hoad said this week, "There are taxpayers in Coober Pedy also, however the Council has not asked for a bailout, neither have we discussed one."

At a recent meeting of the DCCP it was established that the Council had \$1.8 Million in debenture loans available and ready to draw down, but would await a Ministerial decision before activating it. (and recorded in the minutes)

Mr. Marar continued saying, "*Coober Pedy Council has repeatedly breached its obligations under the Local Government Act, entered into an irresponsible \$200 million electricity deal underwritten by taxpayers, and committed basic errors such as a failure to budget past losses and other acts of serious maladministration.*

"The Council should be held to account and must pay for its mistakes through its own resources, asset sales and stringent financial measures, before taxpayers are forced to pay a single cent to rescue it from a history of inexcusably bad decisions and poor stewardship of public funds.

The Local Government Act and many other Acts of Parliament including the Ombudsman's Act are seriously outdated and lacking in strength, but are slowly tightening up with the introduction of the Ratepayer Protection Bill introduced by Shadow Minister for Local Government Tony Piccolo. The Bill received bi-partisan agreement in Parliament recently and will update the LG Act 1999.

On the 10 December 2018 a Special Council Meeting was held at Coober Pedy Council to finalise and approve a letter to Local Government Minister Stephan Knoll, in effect to show cause why he shouldn't put them into administration. <http://cooberpedy.sa.gov.au/councilagenda>

Cr. George Naumovic, newly elected council member and former Chairperson of the Coober Pedy Concerned Resident's Group presented two amendments to the original draft letter to the Minister for council's consideration (There were three draft amendments all up)

Acting CEO Mr. Colin Pitman read aloud Mr. Naumovic's proposed draft and amendments that acknowledge the Ombudsman's finding as accurate at point 1) and at point 6) stated intentions to conduct internal investigations on certain allegations. Community members in the public gallery expressed some concern that the amended letters were not discussed.

Excerpt with proposed amendments by Cr. Naumovic

Dear Minister Knoll, In responding to the Ombudsman's report on the performance of Coober Pedy Council and your letter of the 22nd of November wish to make the following points -

• The council agrees that the council of the day should have tendered the power contract after undertaking a thorough prudential review and did so with full knowledge that it was an action contrary to the local government Act and are guilty of committing maladministration



By Margaret Mackay

After the Special Meeting 10-12-2018 Cr Nick Brellas (left) and Cr George Naumovic (centre) field comments from community members C.Molnar and N.Farantouris

• In responding council consider it is unfair and unjust to provide the council with just 15 working days. • The current council and the administration on the whole was not in existence or employed at that time therefore any comments made on the report are constrained by staff and council knowledge of the matters referred to.

• The state government having received the report before the election and this council having been elected by popular vote, find the prospect of you moving the council into administration completely diametrically contrary to the will of the people of Coober Pedy and potentially a miscarriage of justice.

• The exercise of your powers to dismiss the council and replace them in a manner in which the government would be complicit with an administrator with no accountability to the community is considered unjust and unfair to the voters who elected the current council.

• However the council are intending to investigate the allegations that have arisen in the ICAC / Ombudsman report and the Auditor General's report and where necessary refer these matters to the DPP where appropriate. Etc, etc...

The submission was defeated by a Division of 3/2.

The three members who voted against the amendments were Crs Boro Rapaic, Neville Mitchell and Ian Crombie. Voting for the amendments were Cr G Naumovic and Cr N Brellas. There were only 5 elected members present at the meeting.

Cr Rapaic who led the discussions on the letter to the minister was part of the previous council that voted to approve the \$192 Million power purchase agreement where due diligence had not been effected. Cr. Crombie was also part of the previous council but was not present at the Council meeting of 19 January 2016 when the power deal was approved. <http://cooberpedy.sa.gov.au/webdata/resources/minutesAgendas/2016%2001.pdf>

A question in the community is: Should Councillor Rapaic have declared a conflict of interest on the motion that concerned the conduct of the previous council in the letter to Minister Knoll, having been found to have committed serious maladministration in the execution of the power deal in the Ombudsman's Report and in fact, asked to 'consider his position'?

Suggestions for the Minister, gleaned from community conversations

In considering your verdict in your new role as Local Government Minister Mr. Knoll, please consider that outdated Acts of Parliament have allowed maladministration to thrive in our councils thus putting tax-payer and ratepayer monies at risk.

Complaints about the previous council at Coober Pedy have been considerable and are by no means exhausted. The continual lack of satisfactory outcomes has depleted the spirit of the Opal Capital of the World that has struggled with bullying, nepotism, abuses of power and other forms of dubious conduct for many years.

Allowing maladministration to go unchecked only punishes struggling local families and businesses in the community.

Governments in pertaining to serve the people, need also to listen to the people. Two petitions to dismiss the previous council were presented to Parliament over the past few years, and ignored! Community input is as follow:

Suggestion 1.) "Expel members of the past council and create a bi-election to help supplement the fresh eyes and talent that might better represent a new era in Coober Pedy's development."

Suggestion 2.) "Send a strong message that monopolies, cliques, and factions are not welcome in our council by reducing the number of council members. Clamp down on ad-hoc meetings."

Suggestion 3.) "A potential class action against the previous council(lors) for [Inter alia] the wrongful exercise of their lawful authority, betrayal of resident trust."

A spokesperson for a group of residents has told the CPRT that, "Preliminary advice has been sought with meetings to be held in the new year to consider options and discuss allegations of betrayal of trust; senior management and councillor's lack of transparency, incompetence issues. That some councillors achieved votes using an election premise of transparency, but that the council had virtually governed the town in secret, leaving residents with a staggering debt to repay."

Mr. Knoll, the ratepayers and voters of this town await your decision however they would first welcome a community consultation with you.

ONGOING -
Clean Up Coober Pedy
Playground
87 people have signed this
petition.
Add your name now!

We, the undersigned, want a clean, safe, maintained playground on Hutchinson St, which is used by many local families and tourists.

We call on Coober Pedy Council to:
Address the current state of the playground and amend current procedures to remedy the issues experienced by residents such as exemplified below

- Litter
- Drug paraphernalia
- Glass bottles
- Broken glass
- Cigarette butts
- Cans
- Dog excrement
- Bird excrement
- Ash from fires
- Broken equipment
- Broken gates
- Broken toilets

The playground provides a shaded place for families to spend time together, socialise and keep fit.

The council's own website states Children and Parenting (CaPS) Supports early intervention and prevention services and resources that are aimed at improving children's development and wellbeing and supporting the capacity of those in a parenting role.

The service has a primary focus on children aged 0-12 but may include children up to the age of 18.

The playground is a key way that families can keep fit, meet neighbours and build positive relationships, it also shows the council are committed to the mantra of improving development and wellbeing of children whilst supporting parents.

<https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/clean-up-coober-pedy-playground/>



Above: Playground equipment is used as freely as a toilet day and night by out of towners.

Des Roffey: My Involvement in the
Coober Pedy Together Group!

Dear Editor

I consider I should take this opportunity to explain my involvement with the 'Coober Pedy Together' group.

We are a group of locals intent on making Coober Pedy better, completely independent of the Council and it's Administrator, and more on exploring opportunities and grants that have been missed, ignored or completely overlooked.

The Group is not designed or expected to source volunteers to do unpaid work for the Administrator, the council or his consultants, or boost the reputation of the Administrator who is currently in overdrive engaging consultants in various projects to do in his final six months that he should have done during the past three years.

We are not Jackson's 'bunnies'.

I consider we are planning a blue print of projects that the new council elected by ratepayers in November will undertake to complete over the ensuing four years.

This Administrator has clearly demonstrated that a 'one man band' not living in, or engaged with this town has failed dismally.

The playground is a prime example.

A council responsibility and not that of ratepayers, but is now in such a state of neglect it is a health hazard with human excrement in abundance. To have the Works Manager say on 29 March that "it's in the too hard basket"...."we are under resourced"....."that's a good community project" smacks of the former CEO's arrogance and attitude that now seems to be ingrained.

Attached is a pic taken of the same playground rubber tyres on the 14 April still being used as latrines and clearly reflects that the Administrator does not care. It would seem that on his morning jogs around town (when he blesses us with his presence) he would have inspected the rubber tyres to his own satisfaction.

Not so apparently.

SA Health and the EPA have been advised, and I understand an investigation is underway.

[Cr.] Des Roffey
Ratepayer



Every tyre has a story that relates to a health hazard



Filth at playground in Council's too hard basket



Why would anyone through neglect or otherwise compromise the health of our community and our kids?



Above: Same spot 2 weeks later (14 April)
No cleanup is apparent.

COOBER PEDY TOGETHER GROUP TO DISCUSS PLAYGROUND ISSUE WITH COUNCIL

By Michael Edgecomb

It's been another busy time for us as a group. The Coober Pedy Together Facilitation Group know that we need to be seen not just planning but doing.

This needs to be a season of action for Coober Pedy. More than that, we know that we need to be planning for the long-term, but also supporting the community to resolve or get things moving on what matters most to them.

At our recent meetings, we have spent significant time talking about the playground. We know that it is not in a good state. We know the concerns that locals have – that is not cleaned regularly enough, that the bins are not always empty, that the equipment is severely damaged and not repaired, that the toilet has not been working for a very long time, that broken glass and waste on the ground is common, the concerns about safety, and lights that aren't working.

Trust us, we want this solved as well. Coober Pedy needs to be a place where children and families can feel safe to play, to have fun, to run around, and live life. So, we have started several conversations to find a long-term solution. We'll keep you posted as this develops. We have also written to the District Council of Coober Pedy, in the form of a Question on Notice. This question puts a joint solution forward.

The Facilitation Group is prepared to help by organising short-term community driven clean-ups of the playground and surrounding area, including weeding, picking up rubbish, and basic cleaning, and is asking District Council to make repairs, including replacing broken lights, fixing the toilet as soon as possible, and working together to get a long-term solution in place.

We are hoping that this question will go to the next ordinary council meeting on Tuesday 3 May, so get along in person or join in via Zoom to show your support for the playground.

The Facilitation Group has also been going through all the suggestions put forward by the community over the various workshops held. We looked for the best quick wins and are now putting plans in place (gaining permissions, gathering resources) to invite the community to two key events.

The first, is to invite the community (as families, groups, individuals) to come together and paint everyone light pole and rubbish bin from the Stuart Highway all the way down Hutchison Street. The suggestion to paint to a certain height, celebrating the colours of opal. We are attempting to get things in place, and to put on this event as soon as humanly possible.

Second, we will invite the community to come together to plant hundreds of native trees and plants in and around the playground and surrounding areas across the triangle. We are keen for this to happen as soon as possible, but just in the process of working out the best time to plant.

A community meal will be provided at both events. We hope you agree that both these things will make a huge difference. It's about making our community, our town, feel loved once again.

That's not all, the following is also happening:

- We are following a lead to create a physical base for Coober Pedy Together, and seeing if we can support other community groups in finding a location as we do
- We have sent official invitations to seek conversations with key personnel about key community concerns including safety, health, and educational pathways
- We have sent an official invite, inviting the Premier of South Australia, Hon Peter Malinauskas MP, and relevant Ministers to meet with the Facilitation Group
- We are working to have a final draft of a story and action plan document ready to share with the wider community for feedback by the end of April



The Facilitation Group has written to the District Council of Coober Pedy, in the form of a Question on Notice.



We know the concerns that locals have – that is not cleaned regularly enough, that the bins are not always empty, that the equipment is severely damaged and not repaired, that the toilet has not been working for a very long time, that broken glass and waste on the ground is common, the concerns about safety, and lights that aren't working.



We will keep sharing as we keep doing.

If you have any ideas or thoughts, or want to get in touch with the Facilitation Group about anything, you can email cooberpedytogether@gmail.com or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/cooberpedytogether



The Coober Pedy Community Garden are looking for donations, of soil and gardening supplies, please contact Jacqui 0418723140 to arrange pick up/ Drop offs.
Email:

cooberpedycommunitygarden@gmail.com

**We will start garden soon,
Watch this space.**

Send Letters to the Editor or community concerns by email
Editor@cooberpedytimes.com



Voting for climate will encourage all politicians, regardless of party affiliation to take action on climate change

Dear Editor,

Each week I read devastating news that confirms the advancing path of climate warming. I veer between despair and determination.

In remote South Australia over the years I have seen mound springs and waterholes dry up, species die out, landscapes turn to dust and the unpredictability of climate extremes.

I despair at the decisions made by governments that destroy the environment and make people vulnerable to heat waves, floods and bushfire.

We are all diminished by our floundering democracy and the inability of institutions and governments to manage climate change.

So I joined with some wonderful people to research all 2022 Federal Election candidates and build a website to provide a party-neutral source of advice for people concerned about climate in all Australian electorates.

If you think the climate emergency is an election issue you may be interested in this group - Vote Climate One.
<https://voteclimateone.org.au/>

We use a Traffic Light Voting System that has already been successful in local government elections to elect Councillors willing to act on climate change and other progressive issues.

Australia's preferential voting system makes this strategy a very powerful tool for use in a Federal Election. It is a non-partisan guide.

Voting for climate will encourage all politicians, regardless of party affiliation to take action on climate change. There is even room for you to have input.

See your own electorate.

<https://voteclimateone.org.au/electoral-division/grey/>

I urge you to vote for change in this decade.

Kind Regards
Lyn Hovey
Railway Parade,
Marree
0418559640

Coober Pedy's Moon Plain - green after ex-cyclone Tiffany



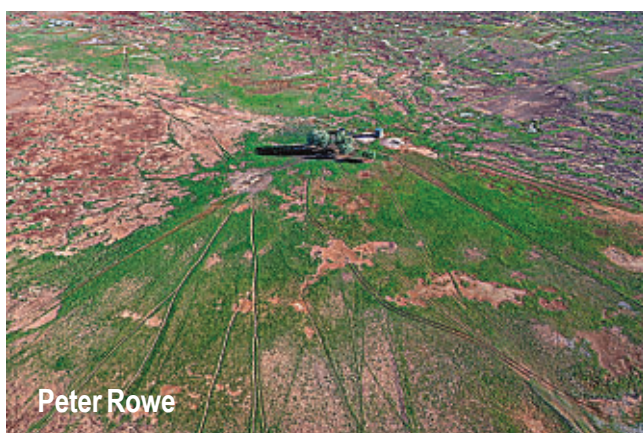
Peter Rowe

After the flooding caused by the ex-cyclone Tiffany event this year, Coober Pedy's Moon Plain began to turn green. Peter Rowe took these amazing photos after the event



Peter Rowe

While Peter Rowe was out photographing the greening of the Moon Plain he was good enough to release a small bearded dragon back into the wild - thank you Peter!



Peter Rowe

Above is the Watering Point out off the Oodnadatta Road with the tracks going through where the cattle go backward and forth for water



Peter Rowe

Another drone photograph of the vast Moon Plain showing green growth appearing after the flooding.

Lee Mott
Therapeutic
Counsellor
By Appointment Only
7 Day flexibility
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W: www.counsellingcompanion.com.au

CONTACT

Whyalla
8645 4255

Port Pirie
86331744

Kadina
88214366

ROWAN RAMSEY MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR GREY
SERVING THE PEOPLE OF COOBER PEDY
rowan.ramsey.mp@aph.gov.au

**CURRENT PROJECT THAT
RESIDENTS CAN STILL
COMMENT ON**

ESCOSA

**“local government
rates oversight
scheme”** ✓

**To help councils manage our money
more efficiently/effectively and
charge fairer rates**

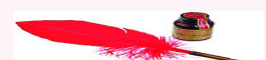
The South Australian Government is introducing a local government rates oversight scheme through amendments to the *Local Government Act 1999*, which will come into operation on 30 April 2022.

Under the scheme, the Commission [Essential Services Commission of SA] will provide to each of the State's 68 local councils (under a Schedule on a four-yearly rotational basis) advice on the appropriateness of both their long-term financial, infrastructure and asset management plans, and the proposed financial contributions by the council's ratepayers under those plans.

The scheme is intended to benefit ratepayers through increased transparency over council rates, greater confidence that the rates they pay are at the level necessary for their council to provide the services they value and that council operations are being undertaken on a long-term financially sustainable basis.

The Commission is now consulting on the Framework and Approach for the implementation of the scheme, **seeking comment by Friday 27 May**, and also has published the initial four-year Schedule and historical information requirements which will apply to councils.

HAVE YOUR SAY HERE:



<https://www.escosa.sa.gov.au/projects-and-publications/projects/inquiries/local-government-rates-oversight-scheme-fa/framework-and-approach>

**Project Released: 31 Mar 2022
Project Closes: Jul 2022
Contact: Sean McComish**



Drug Problem?



Call Narcotics Anonymous

1300 652 820
www.na.org.au

Emotional Health & Wellbeing

A warm Hello to everyone in Cooper Pedy, residents and travellers alike. Thank you for choosing to read this space, however you got here, and may you find something enriching along the way.

The primary aim of all articles is three-fold:

- to raise your own self-awareness;
- to (re-) engage curiosity;
- and to remind you that you are not alone.

All articles come from a perspective of The Problem being the Problem... not the person.

Disclaimer: All articles explore life experiences from a generalised perspective. For specific support, tailored to your own unique self, please contact an accredited mental health professional.



Article 1 Suggested Activities:

- **Read**
<https://www.gottman.com/blog/the-four-horsemen-recognizing-criticism-contempt-defensiveness-and-stonewalling/>
- **Notice**
How you interact when in conflict – what you tend to say, your own attitude, any thoughts that you can catch, how you feel
- **Share**
Explore your new insight with person/s you trust, or write about it in your journal



Leaving the sting out of Conflict



Article 1

We all love to feel close to others.
There's nothing quite like it, to know you matter to another.

It's beautifully disarming – much like when your dog looks at you with unfettered love and a wagging tale.

Maybe, if you're lucky, your human partner does that too when you walk through the door at home (feel free to experiment with that one!). And...I'm sure we're all familiar with that twisted feeling when we are not close.

Sometimes we are able to bridge the gap successfully, and get back to getting along.

Sometimes we dig a big hole that no matter how hard we try..... just keeps getting deeper...and uglier.

Today's article identifies some common hurdles when we aren't getting along and provides some brief tips to break well worn unhelpful patterns. It draws on the works of John & Julie Gottman.

The Gottmans are a highly regarded American couple that have studied couple relationships scientifically and therapeutically for decades – in search of the commonalities to healthy and positive and long-lasting relationships. While their information is geared toward intimate relationships, the principles apply across all relationships.

There are 4 general types of conflict styles that have shown to be highly corrosive in relationships, and it is possible to have aspects of each. Let's take a look at them, so that you can learn to identify them and begin to determine their influence in your life.

..And importantly, these behaviours were learned. They can be unlearned.



1. CRITICISM (attack of the person)

It is very important to understand the difference between voicing a complaint and criticizing.

Voicing a complaint is a healthy expression. For example, "I thought we agreed you'd call me if you were going to be late".

An unhealthy criticism would sound something like "You're just so inconsiderate and self-centred!".

The criticism is a direct attack on the person rather than the problem. Criticism often includes blame, name calling, and general character assassination.

Why is this important?

Because the instinctive reaction to a sense of attack will be to defend...and is highly likely to set off a well trodden pattern of defend/attack, defend/attack, defend/attack.

The outcome? Hurt, a sense of battle weariness, and the problem - will still be a problem.

ANTIDOTE

To ask for a change in the behaviour.



2. DEFENCE

This kind of instinctively protective behaviour is usually a counter-argument after a sense of being attacked...aka criticised.

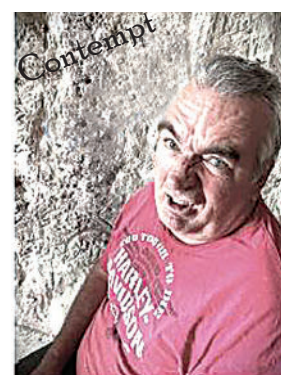
However, it typically also turns into the defender essentially claiming that "it's not me, it's you".

Another form of defence, is the whine...for example "I can't do anything right".

ANTIDOTE

Accepting some responsibility for the situation/problem.

For example "Fair enough, I should have called to say I'd be so late".



3. CONTEMPT

Sarcasm, eye-rolling, disgust, mocking, put-downs, and acting with an air of superiority - an "I'm better than you" outlook.

An example could sound like "What have you been doing all day!!"

I do this every other day of the week, and the one time I ask you it's too much".

High levels of contempt are the highest predicting factor (over 90% accurate) for relationships ending.

ANTIDOTE

Describing your own feelings and needs in a gentle way, and building a culture of appreciation and gratitude.

For example, "I'm struggling carrying the whole household load. I appreciate you're working hard, but I need some regular help".



4. STONEWALLING

This occurs when you are physically present but are disengaged....like the picture above.

It typically happens when you are tapped out and overwhelmed by the situation.

ANTIDOTE

Take a break away from each other for at least 20 mins and self-soothe before re-engaging with each other.



CURRENT Funding for local council road projects to deliver strategic benefits

Local governments across South Australia can now apply for funding to support local road projects with applications to the next round of the Special Local Roads Program now open.

The new funding round will allow South Australian councils to construct new strategic roads and undertake maintenance to improve significantly important local roads in their communities.

“The program aims to prioritise construction and maintenance of strategic and significant local roads, where benefits go beyond the boundary of the council and its community.

“Year-on-year this program has proven highly successful and is often oversubscribed – last year’s funding saw over

\$15 million provided to twenty-six projects supporting a range of strategic outcomes, like freight and supply chain access, tourism routes and safety improvements.

“

Applications to the 2022-23 round of the program are now open and will close on 20 May 2022. Assessment of projects is conducted through an independent Local Government Transport Advisory Panel with input from regional local government associations and the metropolitan local government group.

All South Australian councils are eligible to apply.

For more information can be found at: www.lga.sa.gov.au/special-local-roads and <https://www.agd.sa.gov.au/local-government/grants-commission/road-funding>

From Investigation to Prosecution

By the Hon. Ann Vanstone QC

It seems the Commission’s role in the criminal justice process, in particular how an ICAC matter gets to court, might not be well understood.

Referral for possible prosecution

I set that process out to assist people to understand that the Commission does not decide whether a matter should be prosecuted, what charges should be laid or how a prosecution will be conducted.

How does the Commission come to investigate a matter?

The role of the Director of Public Prosecutions

The Commission can only investigate a matter if it is referred to it as potential corruption, from the Office for Public Integrity (OPI)1. The Commission cannot start an investigation any other way.

How is an investigation conducted?

Once I have accepted a corruption referral from the OPI2, the investigation is allocated to one or more ICAC investigators. Every investigation commences with an agreed investigation plan and I oversee the investigation3.

During an investigation, inquiries are made, documents reviewed and witnesses interviewed. Sometimes examinations are conducted and warrants are executed which permit my investigators to search places and seize documents and other things. Sometimes we seek warrants that allow my investigators to intercept telecommunications or conduct other covert activities. To obtain a warrant, the Commission must convince a Justice of the Supreme Court of the need for the warrant and the activities proposed in the warrant application.

If at the conclusion of an investigation I think the matter could be the subject of a prosecution, a brief of evidence will be compiled. The brief will consist of statements of witnesses setting out what they can say about the matter. Witness statements contain assertions of fact which the witness can make in the witness box according to the rules of evidence. The brief also includes exhibits such as transcripts of interviews, any telephone interceptions, documents seized, expert reports and other aids such as charts or chronologies. Nothing relevant is withheld from the brief.

A senior member of my legal team will also draft possible charges.

As a result of the 2021 amendments to the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Act 2012 (ICAC Act), the Commission can no longer send a brief of evidence directly to the DPP. The brief must now be referred to “the relevant law enforcement agency (usually South Australia Police) for further investigation and potential prosecution”4.

It seems likely that South Australia Police will refer these briefs to the DPP for a decision as to whether charges will be laid.

The DPP undertakes extensive independent analysis of all briefs to determine whether there are reasonable prospects of conviction and whether a prosecution is in the public interest. Only if these questions are answered in the affirmative will charges be laid. This is a process which can take many months and is ordinarily undertaken by a very senior prosecutor or the Director himself. Commencing a prosecution

If charges are to be laid that will be done by the DPP or South Australia Police by filing an information or charge sheet in the Magistrates Court.

From this point the main role of ICAC investigators is to give evidence at the trial if required.

In some cases the DPP, although having determined that charges should be laid, subsequently decides that the charges should not proceed. Again, that decision is one taken by the DPP exercising his statutory independence.

Do all investigations lead to a prosecution?

In practice most investigations undertaken by the Commission do not result in a brief of evidence being referred for prosecution. This might be because allegations were not substantiated. It might be because the conduct would be better dealt with by a referral to the relevant agency for further investigation and potential disciplinary proceedings. Sometimes I determine that a matter is best dealt with by writing to the agency about deficiencies in their practices and suggesting measures to better guard against corruption; or I make a report to parliament under s 42 of the ICAC Act.

On the Level
with Slippo & Slidey



Green Crystal

Continued from previous edition
Slidey: How many plants are we discussing?

Slippo: From what I recall, *your honour*, I bought 6 pots of cheery tomato plants from the ‘brothers’

Slidey: It’s cherry tomatoes mate, and are you serious - from the Reefer brothers?

Slippo: Yes I saw them in the supermarket and mused that I was looking for some salad garnish. They said, “We’ve got some organic garnish. We’ll fix you up mate”.

Slidey: Well maybe they did fix you up.

Slippo: I paid them \$10 per pot and they delivered. They said I’ll have a great crop in no time with lots of garnish for my salads and I could become a supplier. That was my chance to break into horticulture with some real organic stock.

Slidey: Sometimes I wonder about you Slippo. You fluctuate between genius and stupidity.

Slippo: Maybe so, but I only had them for a day when the letter was poked under my door. I’m baffled.

Slidey: So you rushed them out here to implicate me. So what are you smoking mate? You’ve been a bit on the high-side lately.

Slippo: Oh be fair mate. The last joint I rolled was my ankle. I’m just feeling under pressure.

Slidey: Now show me these “tomatoes”, so we can get rid of them.

Slippo: Here we are, down here under the main shaft. A bit of sunshine and fresh air.

Slidey: Now look here James Bong, these ARE tomatoes. They’ve even got small yellow flowers on them. Grab the box, let’s go home and sort out your pills once and for all.

Slippo: What about my summons?

Slidey: You are such high maintenance Slippo; Tear it up. It was blackmail. Now go shopping somewhere else for your vegies and friends.

Slippo: I can’t wait to get home and have one of those relaxing cookies the Reefer brothers gave me.

Slidey: Listen mate, I’m on the level. Cut the ties and let’s go mining - ok? There are no short cuts to success.

Slippo: I’m off the rails aren’t I?

Slidey: Yes, it’s not the first time and probably won’t be the last.

Slippo: The other thing I meant to tell you was I received a letter saying the electricity and water will be cut off next week if we don’t pay the demands of the council. It’s literally thousands. Is that blackmail as well?

Slidey: Incompetence more likely. You’d better let me see that. I’m hearing this elsewhere.

Slippo: I can’t imagine not paying those bills.

Slidey: What I’m hearing all over town, is that nobody is getting any bills, just threatening letters.

Slippo: When will this craziness end?

Slidey: I know mate. The idea of getting elected is not a bad one. We just have to make sure your motives are honourable and you don’t develop any gradiiose ideas and plans.

Slippo: I must admit I’ve been letting the thoughts of power go to my head lately. I’ll go and see the quack like you said.

Slidey: In the meantime we’ll dump these tomatoes off and head back out to the field.

Slippo: You are right mate... The only green I want to see from now on is green crystal.

Inter Club Competition between Coober Pedy Shooters Club and Cadell Pistol Club.

We at Coober Pedy would like to thank Cadell Pistol Club and all the returning and visitors from Port Augusta, Quorn, Port Lincoln and Adelaide for a fantastic weekend for the Inter Club Competition 11 - 13 March 2022 between Coober Pedy Shooters Club and Cadell Pistol Club.

Following the Competition we enjoyed a presentation evening and dinner at the Desert Cave Hotel. We'd like to thank Rob Coro, Owner of The Opal Inn and Desert Cave, as our major sponsor. Robert has sold both venues and still supported the shooting club to the very end

We would also like to thank The Opal inn and the staff for the delicious food and the venue.

In appreciation, we like to award Opal Inn with a plaque for their valuable support and contribution.

Certificate awarded to Gunning 4 You in Appreciation for their valuable support and contribution.

Medals awarded from Coober Pedy Regional Times to the committee.

The medals arrived late for our Christmas break. Margaret from the Coober Pedy Regional Times is a great supporter of our small club. The shooting club always has a page published in the paper and is read widely.

Holster proficient cards are here for those who completed at Cadell last year. Stuart Thomas, Jason Lukcas, David Kokegie, Kevin Myres, Kim Webb and Jeff Mortimer

Umoona Opal Mine and Museum donated the Bisalloy plates for the steel challenge. And the new ICORE matches.

A Big thank all Range Officers Belinda, Chris, Amy, John, Trevor, Tabetha, James, and Mr President Daniel; if I've missed anyone, then YOU TOO.

The club appreciates having members donate their time and energy in making the ICORE match possible.

We'd also like to thank the Council for the upgrade of the lights allow members and visitors to navigate safely around the club grounds.

We thank Jenny Gough for all the food and dessert she prepared on the weekend.

Gift table supplied by CPSC, Des Kemp provided gun bag, Gunning for You merchandise and ammo, G4U also discounts most items on the Gift table.

Donations from Phil and Ann, AU Internet and Computer Services.

Medals and top gun trophies supplied by Rob Coro for The Opal Inn.

Mystery Auction and Raffle supplied by Au Internet and Computer Services.

We wish all travelling home a safe journey, and we'll keep in touch. Once again, thank you for a great weekend.



Thank you to all the participants on the Cadell long weekend shoot



Top Gun Winners: Stuart Thomas - Junior Monique Cooper and Suzanne Bunker, presented by Daniel Lamb



Monique Cooper winner of the Junior Top Gun

COOPER PEDY DRIVE-IN THEATRE

Saturday 30th April Sing 2 (PG)

Saturday 7th May The Lost City (M)

Saturday 14th May The Batman (M)

Saturday 21st May Dog (M)

Saturday 28th May Morbius (M)



Jeff Mortimer Cadell, shooting his ancient Black Powder Shotgun. Photos by Michelle Thomas

PUBLIC NOTICE



ADVANCED WORKS NOTICE

Kempe Road MM132.8 - MM154.8 Reconstruction

Between Coober Pedy and Oodnadatta
 Tuesday 26 April 2022 to Thursday 30 June 2022

This notice is to advise of **Reconstruction and Cap Sealing works** on the Kempe Road between Coober Pedy and Oodnadatta, South Australia.

These works are being undertaken by SA Road Services on behalf of the Department for Infrastructure and Transport to provide improved services, and transport safety and reliability to the remote outback communities.

Works are scheduled to commence on **Tuesday, 26th April 2022** with expected completion by late Jun, 2022, weather permitting.

To safely facilitate these works, appropriate traffic management will be present during work hours to ensure through-traffic can travel through the works area safely, however **one lane will be closed where necessary**.

The nature of the work will involve re-grading, reforming and bitumen cap sealing of the existing road surface, from the end of the current seal for an additional 22 kilometres, towards Oodnadatta.

Every effort will be made to minimise the impact of works, however minor traffic delays and speed restrictions are unavoidable.

We appreciate your cooperation and patience while these important works are undertaken.

For further information about these works, please contact SA Road Services Patrick Dunn on 0460416 127 or at patrick.dunn@servicestream.com.au



\$7.4 MILLION FOR REMOTE ROAD UPGRADES IN GREY

The Federal Government is continuing to deliver better and safer roads across Grey, providing almost \$7.4 million for two projects under the Remote Roads Upgrade Program .

This funding will ensure more unsealed and dangerous roads across our region get the attention they need, making them safer and getting motorists to their destination sooner.

Projects in Grey include:

- Almost \$5m to upgrade an existing 20 km section of Tea Tree Road located north of the township of Yunta. The scope of works includes elevation of sections of the roadway, construction of new floodways, upgrades to existing floodways and stormwater culverts, and upgrades to longitudinal stormwater management (swale drains).
- \$2.4m to enhance the resilience of the length of Gammon Ranges Road between Nepabunna to Copley. This road corridor is frequently damaged by rainfall events that lead to road closures. The scope of works includes the stabilisation and replacement of floodways, installation of 17 box culverts and the upgrade and replacement of 16 cattle grids.

Member for Grey Rowan Ramsey said the Federal Government was focused on delivering better roads in regional areas.

“The Tea Tree road is carrying considerable amounts of traffic for the Four Mile uranium mine east of the Northern Flinders and the road from Nepabunna to Copley is not only the supply route for the town and a significant tourist route, it also carries the children of Nepabunna to and from school in Leigh Creek,” Mr Ramsey said.

“The Federal Government is delivering record amounts for road funding in Grey, well in excess of a billion dollars and projects like these, well beyond the national highways demonstrate that it is not just the main roads we are interested in. The works will also create new jobs and support our economic recovery across Grey.”

“Only through the Government’s strong economic management can we continue to deliver important local infrastructure projects for the Grey community.

FOOD SAFETY
 while camping



WALK IN FOR YOUR BOOSTER.

Haven’t had your booster?
 Walk in to get your booster at SA Health COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics

- 16+** Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for 16+
- 18+** Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for 18+

Book now at
covidvaccine.sa.gov.au

ACCOUNTANT - COOPER PEDY

Arid Areas Accounting
Audit & Tax
Richard Younger



These services include:

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

Mob: 0422 428 850
richard@aaaaat.com.au

We specialise in providing practical, sound accounting, auditing & tax services & advice to individuals, families & businesses

Office: Business Centre, Hutchison Street (next to Centrelink)
PO Box 711 Cooper Pedy

Supporting "Shop Local at Cooper Pedy"

T

PROPOSAL TO UPGRADE A TELSTRA MOBILE PHONE BASE STATION AT LOT 100 GOOGS TRACK, YELLABINNA SA 5690, SITE ID: JACINTH-AMBROSIA
WWW.RFNSA.COM.AU/5710049

1. The proposed facility comprises the swap out of three (3) redundant panel antennas with three (3) new panel antennas of similar size and appearance; ancillary equipment to be upgraded including remote radio units, tower mounted amplifiers, mounts, cabling and feeders; and internal works within the equipment shelter, to improve Telstra's mobile phone network (including 4G).
2. Telstra regards the proposed installation as a 'Low impact' Facility under the *Telecommunications (Low Impact Facilities) Determination 2018* and *Telecommunications (Low-impact Facilities) Amendment Determination 2021*, based on the description above. The proposed infrastructure will comply with the ACMA EME regulatory arrangements.
3. In accordance with Section 7 of C564:2020 Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment Code, we invite you to provide feedback about the proposal. Further information and/or comments should be directed to: Planning Consultant on behalf of Telstra, via email to planning.vic@servicestream.com.au, via post to Planning Consultant, Servicestream, PO Box 14570, Melbourne, VIC 8001 by **5pm 10th May 2022**.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

In South Australia, the next periodic council elections will take place in November 2022

. If an elected position on a council becomes vacant in between periodic elections, ECSA may conduct a supplementary election (often described as a 'by-election')

POSITION VACANT

MAKING A DIFFERENCE SO SOUTH AUSTRALIA THRIVES



COMMUNITY SERVICE SUPERVISOR

Department for Correctional Services
Cooper Pedy Community Corrections Centre

Casual position up to 12 months
\$56,145 - \$60,396 pa (OPS2)
Ref No: 481593

For more information and how to apply visit: www.iworkfor.sa.gov.au

Applications close:
11pm, Tuesday 26 April 2022

IWORKFOR.SA.gov.au

Grassroots Grants Funding for issues like increased pest plants

The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board will double its Grassroots Grants funding round in 2022/23 in response to widespread rain and flooding across the region.

Landholders will be able to source funds from a \$200,000 pool to address pest plant and animal control and erosion works caused by the heavy rainfall.

Local community groups, not-for-profit organisations and volunteers are able to apply for funding to help sustainably manage local landscapes through on-ground works and building community capacity.

SA Arid Lands Landscape Board chair Ross Sawers said the additional funding was a timely opportunity for a range of projects and ideas in landscape management to receive funding, as well as flood impacted landholders to apply for funds to support the increased need for pest plant and animal control or soil erosion works as a result of the recent heavy downpours," Mr Sawers said.

In 2021/22, the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board funded fourteen projects that focussed on the Landscape SA pillars of community capacity building, pest and weed control, biodiversity protection and monitoring, along with land and water management.

Applications will close on 4 May 2022.
For more information on how to apply visit www.landscape.sa.gov.au/saal





OUTBACK SOLAR SPECIALISTS!

Our Solar Packages Include:

- *Supply and Installation of custom designed Solar Systems for the outback
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313 Goodwood Road, Kings Park, SA 5034
1300 494 426

STOP ELDER ABUSE
SAFEGUARD THE RIGHTS OF OLDER PEOPLE



1 in 20 Australians experiences some form of abuse from a person they know and trust

IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

- 50%** of cases are financial abuse
- 75%** of cases are emotional abuse
- 80%** of abuse is by a family member
- 65%** of victims live in the family home
- 19%** of cases involve Dementia





BURN SURVIVORS' NETWORK SOUTH AUSTRALIA

JUNE 17 - 19, 2022
KIDS FOUNDATION

CAMP TANGO SOUTH AUSTRALIA



WANT TO KNOW MORE?
We encourage survivors of life-changing injury or burns and their families to contact us, plus anyone interested in volunteering at Camp TANGO in South Australia

For more info or to register find us at: kidsfoundation.org.au/events or Ph: 1300 734 733

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY







WEDNESDAY

CFS TRAINING CFS TRAINING: Training 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 7.00pm. For more information contact the training officer on 0448 791 499. For all other enquiries, the brigade duty officer can be reached on 0460 311 464.

Mine Rescue/SES training

Training is the first and third Wednesday of the month @ 7.30pm and the second Saturday of the month at 9am

The unit manager is Anthony Daelman

Duty officer ph no: 0427 752 446

THURSDAYS CP SHOOTERS CLUB

See page 16 for latest updates

FRIDAYS

Greek Charcoal BBQ every Friday at the Greek Hall. Will resume after the summer break - date TBA



SATURDAYS

MINE RESCUE/SES Training is second Saturday of the month at 9am

The unit manager is Anthony Daelman

Duty officer ph no: is 0427 752 446

CP SHOOTERS CLUB

See page 16 or 17 for latest updates, or Ring John DiDonna on 0427649389

CROATION CLUB

Happy Hour
Saturdays 6-7pm

SUNDAYS

GOLF for 2022 TBA

CATACOMB Church Service and Sunday School 9:30am Sunday. Bus pickup available. Ph 8672 5038

CP SHOOTERS CLUB

See page 16 or 17 for latest updates

Ring John DiDonna on 0427649389 to book a time

COOBER PEDY RSL

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

COOBER PEDY DRIVE-IN THEATRE

Drive-In Movies in 2022

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

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2022

New Year's Day Mon, 3 Jan 2022

Australia Day Wed, 26 Jan 2022

Adelaide Cup Mon, 14 Mar 2022

Good Friday Fri, 15 Apr 2022

Holy Saturday Sat, 16 Apr 2022

Easter Monday Mon, 18 Apr 2022

Anzac Day Mon, 25 Apr 2022

Queen's B/day Mon, 13 June 2022

Labour Day Mon, 3 Oct 2022

SA schools term dates 2022

1) 31 January to 14 April

2) 2 May to 8 July

3) 25 July to 30 September

4) 17 October to 16 December

Coober Pedy Sports and Recreation weekly schedule

APRIL

All welcome to come along and have some fun, learn some skills and get fit and healthy.

Mondays

Karate 5.30pm Golf Club
Kids Basketball 6pm
Youth/ Adults basketball 7pm

Tuesdays

Badminton School Gym 7pm
Football Training 4pm-5pm

Thursdays

Kids Netball (School gym) After school 3.30- 5pm
Pilates 5. 30 School Gym
Karate 5.30pm Golf Club
Football Training 4pm-5pm (Oval)



Sundays

Golf 12pm

Quick recap of upcoming events and opportunities

Neville Bonney Roadshow

South Australian native plant expert, ethnobotanist and published author, **Neville Bonney** will be visiting:

- Oodnadatta 4th May
- Coober Pedy 5th May
- Andamooka 6th May

Join us for these free workshops about native plants, propagation and uses and bush food. Some catering provided.

Grassroot Grants

Funding is available for projects that address the SAAL Landscape Board's five key priority areas in grants valued between \$1,000 and \$10,000 (+GST).

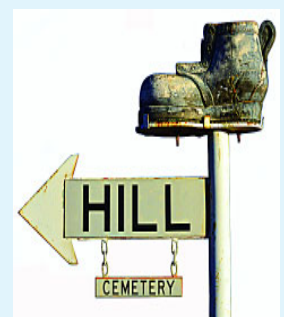
Applications close at 4pm ACT on Monday 9 May.

SAAL Landscape Group vacancies

If you have an interest in managing natural resources in your district, becoming a member of your local Landscape Group may be for you. The call for new members opened on 29 March 2022 and nominations will be accepted until 5pm on 2 May 2021.

Hamish Longbottom
Community Landscape Officer –
Kingoonya & Marla-Oodnadatta
South Australian Arid Lands Landscape
Board

HOW TO REMAIN PART OF YOUR COMMUNITY



Recording resident movement, particularly from the opal mining sector, or from any sector can be important for our future records.

Email
editor@cooberpedytimes.com

PLANNING AHEAD: GRANTS

Funding for local council road projects to deliver strategic benefits

Local governments across South Australia can now apply for funding to support local road projects with applications to the next round of the Special Local Roads Program now open.

The new funding round will allow South Australian councils to construct new strategic roads and undertake maintenance to improve significantly important local roads in their communities.

LGA President Mayor Angela Evans said funding would allow local governments to deliver strategic local road projects that would otherwise exceed an individual council's capacity.

"This program is vital for South Australian councils, enabling them to construct and maintain significant and strategic local roads, including sealed or unsealed roads and bridges – which supports economic and business growth and local jobs," Mayor Angela Evans said.

"The program aims to prioritise construction and maintenance of strategic and significant local roads, where benefits go beyond the boundary of the council and its community.

"Year-on-year this program has proven highly successful and is often oversubscribed – last year's funding saw over \$15 million provided to twenty-six projects supporting a range of strategic outcomes, like freight and supply chain access, tourism routes and safety improvements.

"Funding delivered through the Special Local Roads Program has been vital to help communities thrive and I'm looking forward to seeing the projects from this new round."

Applications to the 2022-23 round of the program are now open and **will close on 20 May 2022**. Assessment of projects is conducted through an independent Local Government Transport Advisory Panel with input from regional local government associations and the metropolitan local government group.

All South Australian councils are eligible to apply.

For more information can be found at: www.lga.sa.gov.au/special-local-roads and <https://www.agd.sa.gov.au/local-government/grants-commission/road-funding>

Opening our Great Outdoors Fund

The Opening our Great Outdoors pool is funded by the Regional Growth Fund to support economic generating regional tourism initiatives.

What the grant will fund

There are 2 streams of the Fund for projects located within South Australia for outcome and benefits in regional South Australia.

Stream 1

Regional tourism projects to enhance investments in nature-based, farm-based, rangelands and fishing-based tourism opportunities, and invest in public infrastructure, that supports and encourages South Australians to travel to regional areas, connect with agriculture and enjoy our regions, parks, rangelands, reservoirs, waterways and marine environment.

Stream 2

Regional accommodation projects to support and stimulate private sector investment in new or improved regional accommodation for quality tourism products and experiences.

Available funding for applicants

Stream 1: Regional tourism projects

You can apply for a grant from \$20,000 up to \$1 million excluding GST for stream 1 projects, up to a maximum of 50 percent co-contribution from the State Government of the total project cost (for non-State Government applications).

Stream 2: Regional accommodation projects

You can apply for a grant from \$20,000 up to \$500,000 excluding GST for stream 2 projects, up to a maximum of 30 percent co-contribution from the State Government of the total project cost.

Eligibility

Stream 1: Regional tourism projects

Individual commercial enterprises
Business clusters
Minister for Environment and Water, regarding eligible applications to the Nature-based Tourism Co-investment Fund

SA Water Forestry SA

Local government bodies. Applications from local government bodies should be for regional tourism supporting investments aligned within the guidelines (PDF 283.9 KB) for non-commercial public infrastructure.

Stream 2: Regional accommodation projects

Individual commercial enterprises
Sole traders
Partnerships
Business clusters

Regional Growth Fund can be found online:
www.pir.sa.gov.au/regionalgrowthfund

Federal inquiry calls for star rating system for all roads



Publishing star ratings for all roads would enhance accountability around road safety targets, a federal parliamentary inquiry has found.

The final report of the Joint Select Committee on Road Safety also suggests that Commonwealth funding for road safety and road infrastructure projects be conditional on the provision of data on road safety outcomes.

"Where practicable, this should include the provision of data on the star rating of the relevant road," it says.

Submissions to the inquiry from the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) and other state local government associations highlighted mismatches between asset responsibility and revenue.

The committee's report said that improving road safety in regional, rural, and remote areas will require that adequate funding be made available to local government, particularly as local government is responsible for the majority of Australia's road network.

"The committee is concerned that the funding allocated to local government is insufficient given the size of the road network for which local government is responsible."

It recommended the Commonwealth work with state and territory governments to review and investigate ways of improving funding arrangements for infrastructure and road safety programs, with a focus on:

- allocating additional funding to local government, balancing autonomy for local government with oversight of road safety outcomes;
- providing longer-term, sustainable funding to road safety projects to enable more effective project and workforce planning;
- identifying priority areas for targeted investment, based on factors such as predicted crash risk;
- increasing the amount of funding dedicated to safety improvements on and around regional, rural, and remote roads;
- establishing categories of funding dedicated to specific types of road safety improvements, with a focus on safety for vulnerable road users; and
- prioritising safety for all road users without unduly limiting the funding available for critical infrastructure upgrades.

In all, the 378-page report makes 61 recommendations.



RSL clubs to receive grants to support Dawn Services

RSL clubs to receive grants to support Dawn Services South Australian RSL sub-branches and local councils can apply for one-off grants from the Malinauskas Labor Government to support the delivery of COVID-safe Anzac Day Dawn Services in 2022.

Delivering on an election commitment, funding of up to \$10,000 will be retrospectively provided to eligible organisations or councils (where RSL sub-branches no longer operate).

Funding may be used for expenses associated with meeting COVID-Safe requirements such as hiring additional marshals, funding road closures, ticketing, seating, marquees or assistance with COVID Safe management plans.

The grant funds will be administered through the RSL SA State Branch.

In order to receive funding, eligible sub-branches and local councils must submit relevant receipts or evidence of payment of invoices to the RSL SA State Branch by **Friday, 13 May 2022**.

The RSL SA State Branch will submit a grant application for the total amount of funding to Veterans SA no later than **Friday, 27 May 2022**.

Minister for Veterans Affairs Geoff Brock said, "Anzac Day is an important way for local communities across our State to come together to acknowledge and pay their respects to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice."

"In the past two years we've seen dawn services across the State cancelled because of the added cost and resourcing associated with staging a COVID-Safe event – and we don't want that to happen again."

"This funding will ensure South Australians will have the opportunity to come together again and remember our Anzacs."

COMMUNITY QUESTIONS TO DCCP ON \$3.55m ERROR in BUDGETED FIGURES

Surplus VS Deficit and Anomaly VS Error

6 only questions on the faulty financial statement prepared and published on **5th July 2020** on council's website that remained in the public domain for between 5-7 days.

We invited the council to respond more specifically, but *avoid unnecessary technicality and excessive detail* as to how the anomaly/error occurred.

Council MUST have expected that an error of around \$3.55 MILLION DOLLAR magnitude would at the very least attract scrutiny and arguments for maladministration/incompetence.

Q • What was the cost of preparing these financials in terms of time and labour?
Not answered

Q • Please identify the amounts and explain the surplus in one part of the ledger, turning into a loss on another part of the ledger?
Not Answered

At the 28-7-2020 Council Meeting Mr. Alan Rushbrook spoke of correcting some errors during his talk on borrowings. It was not clear if he was talking about errors in his latest projections, or the errors in the faulty budgeted figures published on the 5th July.

Unless explanations are clear then we will have to consider that our questions are not answered.

Q • Could the "anomaly" as Mr. Miller CEO called it, be explained or clarified in plain English for the community to understand, avoiding unnecessary technicality and excessive detail?
Not answered

Q • Did the council officers compiling the budgeted figures not wonder where over a million dollars of surplus money had actually come from, given that council operates at the brink of bankruptcy and on the limit of borrowings at all times?
Not answered

Q • What financial risk management policies or audit policies are in place?
Not answered

Q • What measures have been put in place since, to prevent this happening again?
Not Answered

We have since received (after a previous publication 7-8-20) a compilation of questions and answers constructed by council that do not adequately address the 6 simple questions posed by the community (above).

We therefore decline to complicate the issue by publishing or accepting council's replacement questions. It is not for councils to decide how they will be scrutinized.

PUBLIC NOTICE

WITHOUT PREJUDICE

12-11-2021: It has come to the Editor's attention that letters written by **Tim Jackson, DCCP Administrator**, for publication in the Coober Pedy Regional Times, have been found to be potentially defamatory. One such letter is the subject of current litigation.

<https://cooberpedyregionaltimes.files.wordpress.com/2021/04/coober-pedy-regional-times-23-4-2021.pdf>

The Editor has found it necessary to place a **"Barring Order"** [BAN] against **Tim Jackson** for any future letters or comments in this newspaper until he is cleared of any defamation actions currently against him.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT ANSWERS

14-12-2021

- 1.) Was the operating deficit **\$1,537,000**?
- 2) Is the current consolidated debt **\$11,348,000**?
- 3) What is the current interest rate on the consolidated debt?

We have heard that Council may have dealt with some of your Questions but as yet we have not been formally or respectfully notified. We will therefore continue to publish your questions

Tim Jackson is currently banned from submitting letters, but other council staff have no restrictions.

Questions & Wishes from Ratepayers February 2022

1) Wish: Transparency and accountability from Council Administration.

2) Q: Council - Can the administrator please provide more concrete reasons for ejecting people from meetings? To date his reasons seem childish and pathetic.

3) Q: Council - Does the Administration really need to engage with lawyers everytime a ratepayer disagrees or asks a question? Can you please stop this immature and costly practice?

4) Q: Council - Chlorine levels in the water at times can still be a tad high. Is it being mixed thoroughly?

5) Q: Council - Please relate the details of how the \$10K funding was spent on Australia Day?

6) Q: Council - How was the community notified of this event and did anyone attend?

7) Q: Council - How were nominations sourced and how was voting conducted? How were the judges determined?

8) Q: Council - Where are the terms of reference documents and other documentation for the Australia Day Awards publicly displayed?

9) Q: Council - Is there a current Emergency Response Plan for the Coober Pedy District? After viewing the Italian Club Meeting, I suspect not.

10) Wish: We wish that in the case of another serious weather event that the community emergency response plan that we inquired of the administrator about 18 months ago is compiled as a matter of extreme urgency.

11) Q: Council - If we are to be a alcohol free town then lets really be one. What action has been taken on the Alcohol Management Plan in the last 12 months? We need the drunken factional fighting in our streets to cease, and our police to look after Coober Pedy issues.

12) Wish: Abolish free camping in town and invoke current council to promote and acknowledge the opal industry in consultation with the community.

13) Q: Council - Where are all of council personnel credit cards and expenses published, including any miscellaneous spending?

14) Wish: Dusty Radio to stop being a mouth piece for Tim Jackson (you should of heard them during the floods). Hope they do not have access to our money. Go private Dusty!!

15) Q: Council - Is it true that Tim Jackson now only flies into Coober Pedy for Council Meetings and then flies out the next day? If so, how is this sustainable given the growing dissatisfaction with his lack of performance?

15) Q: Is Council planning on selling MiniGems or closing it? Come clean.

16) Q: Council - Why do we need 2 CEOs. Aren't we broke enough? Where can we view their CVs?

17): Q: Council - please explain why Dean Miller is no longer the CEO? Is he still on our payroll?

18) Q: Can Council regulate and adhere to the Code of Conduct rules for all council employees including the Administrator?

19) Q: Council - A truthful explanation of why Colin Pitman left/sacked/pushed/willingly resigned?

20) Wish: Wish for Labor to get in at the next State Elections and sack the Administrator Tim Jackson

21) Q: Why hasn't the Editor of the Newspaper referred Tim Jackson to the appropriate Agency for failure to answer our questions? Surely his failure to reply to our concerns in 18 months is a serious breach of his position.

21) A: You are correct. There is Legislation and other policy requirements that the Administrator must comply with. A draft is now in place, and it will be actioned.

Questions

11 March 2022

PROPERTY AUCTION in JUNE 2021

The community would like to see a detailed report from Council as to the process followed in the June 2021 property auction, including (but not limited to) the following:

Q: How was the tender process followed? Please outline
Q: Was the Council Procurement Policy adhered to?
Q: What other Real Estate franchises tendered? (how many?)
Q: How was the successful tender decided?
Q: Were all outstanding rates recovered? How much?
Q: Are there any outstanding settlements on sold properties?
Q: Who was in charge of the Auction - decisions etc?
Q: At what point during the auction process was it decided to waive the outstanding rates for new buyers?
How was this decided?

CEO STATUS?

Q: Rumours abound that the former CEO is suing for unfair dismissal or stress related injuries.
Q: Is there any legal activity in relation to the former CEO?
Q: If so, is the council counter suing for breach of contract and recovery of any bonus payments?
Q: What are the anticipated legal costs, if any?
Q: What are the amounts sought by both parties, if any?
Q: What is the anticipated expectancy of total costs on a best v worse case scenario from lawyers, if any?
Q: As the CEO was engaged by the Administrator under an anomaly as stated in a council meeting 26 October, what impact will that have?
Q: Was the CEO Oversight Committee involved in the current outcome?
Q: Why did it take so long for the Administrator to recognise the situation?

CEO Oversight Committee

Q: Why did the town representative for the CEO Oversight Committee resign in October?
Q: Who is the current town representative on the Oversight Committee?

Re Town appraisal:

Q: The Dry Zones and temporary camps are littered with rubbish suggesting the Administrator has no control.
Q: Why is that so?
Q: Why was a temporary camp allowed to be set up opposite the town playground (and overflowing into the playground)?
Q: Has there been any face to face discussions with local police to enforce the Dry Zones and anti social behaviour in public places? Q: If not, why not?
Q: Why has the external surroundings of the council chambers and Visitor Centre disintegrated into an eyesore with unkempt gardens, tattered shade cloth with temporary camps and itinerants sleeping rough with complete disregard to Dry Zone regulations?
Q: Why is the town still looking rough, dirty and deserted with the police station and hospital car park reflecting the disgraceful standard that surrounds the council chambers and Visitor Information Centre?
Q: Have any discussions been had with those organisations to clean up and present as responsible government institutions?
Q: Why doesn't the town Administrator set the example and utilise proper council resources to clean up the rubbish and not expect ratepayers to do the job?

WATER SUPPLY AND TENDER

After the botched Water Tender process by the Administrator, former CEO and Financial Officer, what is the precise situation at the moment?
Q: What expectations are there of a sale; to whom, and how much?
Q: What is the current valuation of the Water Works, and how was that figure arrived at?
Q: Considering the poll conducted in October 2019 voted to sell, why weren't tenders called at the same time?

Questions

25 March 2022

AUCTION OF PROPERTIES AT COOBER PEDY

On behalf of the Coober Pedy Ratepayers we continue to pursue the answers to these questions.

REPEAT QUESTION:

Was there a tender process for the sale of the Auctioned properties?
If so where can we inspect this process?
How many Real Estate Companies entered the process?
Who were they?

POTENTIAL BREAK AND ENTER FOR THE PURPOSE OF INSTALLING SMART METERS

Will the DCCP reassure the public that council employees and contractors will not be given permission to enter into their homes while they are temporarily absent, and for any reason?

[Cr] Des Roffey

Questions

25 March 2022

I have researched a series of articles in CPRT and submit (or resubmit) the following questions.

Q: Was the 'defaulting' council sacked, suspended or disposed of?
Q: Was the Suspended Council in reality the Defaulting Council, or did the young minister make a mistake, and did he have any conflicts of interest?
Q: Will the new Labor Government review Minister Knolls reasoning and decisions in consultation with the community?
Q: As the minister appears to have suspended the wrong council doesn't this leave a door open for potential reoffending?
Q: Why did the Administrator push for another three years of employment for himself once the council was only suspended. Wasn't the suspended council still able to function in a small capacity and be reinstated after one year? (Job for the OPI?)
Q: Is the Coober Pedy Remote Area Electricity Subsidy still being used to pay for wages etc, as identified in the Auditor General's Report of December 2018?
Q: How much is the debt to EDL at this date?
Q: Does Tim Jackson's 'control' extend beyond DCCP responsibilities and into the homes and businesses of ratepayers?
Q: As there are many in Coober Pedy that believe the Administrator is seriously out of his depth and completely ineffective, will Tim Jackson resign in the best interest of the Coober Pedy community?

Last question

Q: Could the real elephant in the room be, that the editor of the Coober Pedy Regional Times has suspended Tim Jackson's input into the local paper until he himself is cleared of defamation?

I thank the Editor for allowing me a generous amount of space for my first letter at short notice. I thank others for their sharing concerns and for their supporting advice. I encourage those residents who feel helpless to have hope that the new government will act swiftly and in your best interests.

Ben Starkey (Former Resident)

Coober Pedy Regional Times

Will Coober Pedy's Water Supply be the means to balance the books, after 4 years of meaningless spending?

For full article see
Coober Pedy Regional Times
Friday 8 April 2022; page 7

Later that week when the minutes were uploaded, the full report (already passed) became visible to the public, rather than the abstract version presented by Jackson [at the meeting].

At no time was any reference made to the Water Supply Asset being used as security for an \$7.8 million loan from the LGFA [pending some other arrangement and what that might be.]

It seems odd to me that the "Water System Project Management" itself isn't the subject of a fair Tender process.

What does the \$126K represent in costs in relation to Playford's input? And if the assets are now being used as collateral by the LGFA, can they be sold?

SA Water is the provider for all of the households in Playford. Playford does not manage it's own Utilities.

Is it a fact that Playford Council employees really have the time to take on Coober Pedy's Water System Project Management?

Why would Playford Council offer to allow the payments to span over two financial years?

It could be argued that Tim Jackson has a conflict of interest in relying on his old council for intellectual and financial support.

- For Jackson to deliver a sustainable outcome by November, is it based only on selling our water supply which is our most precious asset?

- Given the calamity of errors generated in the first Tender Process, is offloading the cost of a new Tender to a sympathetic council over 2 years a prudent decision?

- That Playford does not manage it's own Water Utilities, would that not imply that they do not employ the level of expertise implied?

- Is spreading the payments over two years a good enough reason to compromise on that of an experienced firm of qualified Hydraulic Engineers, if the intention is to write up an informed Tender?

The way it seems at present, is that

1) SA Water do not want it
2) All potential buyers have lost interest

Why was the Tender not placed on sites such as :
<https://illion.tenderlink.com/tenders/utilities---energy-&-water/australasia/australia/south-australia/northern/>
or <https://www.australianbidders.com.au/>
rather than given to Tim Jackson former employer?

Coober Pedy Council Administration has used an exemption clause to bypass the Tender Process for this project in favour of Playford.

Is this not a project that the Jackson team has already spent over 12 months on before abandoning it due to alleged management incompetence?

IN WAIVING THE PROCUREMENT POLICY - Expert contenders will not have an opportunity to put their skills into the ring, such as:

Wallbridge Gilbert Aztec (WGA)
HDS Engineering Australia
Tonkins Engineering



Cooper Pedy Shooters Club



Welcomes all new Members, Visitors and Sponsors

Cooper Pedy Shooter Club welcomes all new members, visitors and Sponsors

If you don't have a firearm, come along & our members will assist you with all enquiries.

Minimum age for shooting at the club is 10 yrs (Rifles and Air Pistol)
& 14 yrs (Pistols).

Starting Times 9:00 AM

**Saturday — Pistols
(Steel Challenge)**

16 April

23 April

30 April

7 May

14 May



Starting Time: 10:00 AM

Sundays 100m Centre-Fire & IPSC Shotgun Match

**EASTER FUN SHOOT
17 April**

24 April

1 May

8 May

15 May

MEMBERSHIP Renewal Now Due 2022 (FINAL REMINDER)

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

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