



District Council
of Cooper Pedy

CommunityNewsletter

March 2022

www.cooperpedy.sa.gov.au

welcome to the opal capital of the world



From the Administrator

Alcoholic management and anti-social behaviour

The Council along, with many of its citizens, continue to be concerned about antisocial behaviour in the town caused by excessive alcohol use. This is particularly the case in Hutchinson Street.

In February the Council resolved to express its significant disappointment to the Premier at the lack of progress by the State Government in addressing this antisocial behaviour and further, it called on the State Government to address the problem immediately by adequately resourcing the solution.

To meet the expectations of the Cooper Pedy community the State Government needs to:

1. Fund a review of the Cooper Pedy Alcohol Management Strategy.
2. Establish and fund an appropriate group to oversee implementation.
3. Fund the adequate policing of the dry zone by SAPOL.
4. Fund and maintain an adequate alcohol purchaser identification system.
5. Fund and maintain an adequate CCTV/public surveillance system in Hutchinson Street.
6. Review alcohol purchase limits including the uncapped sale of beer.
7. Fund and deliver adequate communication to the community regarding strategy implementation progress.

Australia Day awards

It is important to recognise people and organisations who make significant contributions to their communities. This is the purpose of these awards. Cooper Pedy had some wonderful recipients this year but equally important it had some wonderful nominations of people and organisations who were not ultimately the successful recipient. I thank those people and organisations for what they do. Hopefully they will be nominated again next year.

Details of the recipients of the awards are included on page 5 in this newsletter.

Accredited child care

For the past two years, Council has been in discussions with the Department for Education about it taking over Council's child care service. While we have had fruitful discussions with the Regional Director, they have stalled in Adelaide.

Consequently, the Council at its meeting in February adopted the following policy in respect of its involvement in child care:

Resolution No. 210

That Council adopt the following policy in respect of its involvement in child care provision:

Child Care Provision

1. The Council believes child care is a Federal and State Government responsibility in terms of funding.

In terms of Mini Gems Children's Centre, Council believes the service is needed in the town and that it should be integrated into the States early childhood development system.

If Council was to fund child care in Cooper Pedy it would require the approval of voters at a community poll to increase municipal rate revenue to fully fund the service.

2. That the State Government be requested to indicate its position on taking over the service no later than 30 June 2022.
3. That the Council cease providing funding for a child care service in Cooper Pedy from 1 January 2023 unless a community poll supports Council funding.

In recent weeks the Council has been contacted by officers of the department to progress the exit of Council from this service and to explore alternative ways of delivering the service. ➔

→ Camping and RV parking

This issue has been on the agenda for some time. At a recent Council meeting a proposed policy position was discussed. Community consultation will now occur. It is proposed to prohibit camping and parking on crown land and Council-owned land in the town. It will be permitted on privately owned land where planning approval has been obtained. In respect of crown land outside the town boundary but adjacent to it, the State Government will be encouraged to regulate its use.

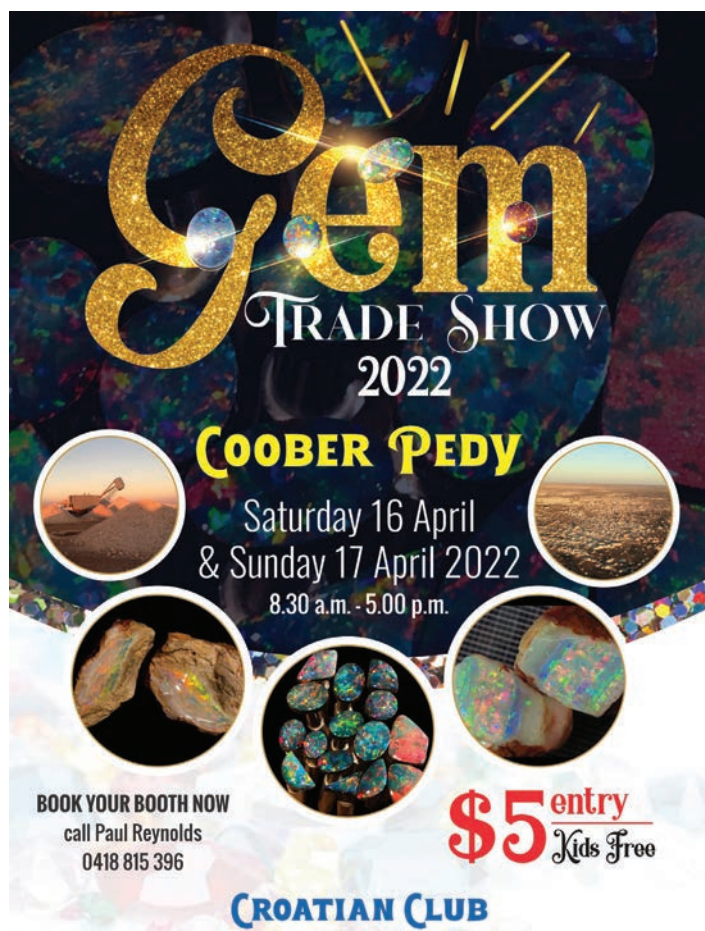
Coober Pedy Together

The *Coober Pedy Together* project is about getting everyone to work together to make Coober Pedy a better place. While initiated and funded by the Council it is vital that it is led by the town's citizens.

Recently a number of people put themselves forward to become facilitators of the project. Details of these people are included elsewhere in this newsletter. Thank you to those people. They have a challenging but rewarding time ahead.

COVID prevention

The number of people presenting with COVID in Coober Pedy and the Far North has increased. Please continue to adhere to the Health SA guidelines. Obviously, those who have chosen not to be vaccinated need to be doubly vigilant as they are at greater risk of serious illness and/or death.



Gem
TRADE SHOW
2022
COOBER PEDY
Saturday 16 April
& Sunday 17 April 2022
8.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

BOOK YOUR BOOTH NOW
call Paul Reynolds
0418 815 396

\$5 entry
Kids Free

CROATIAN CLUB

Loan refinancing

Recently the Council rolled over its current debt of \$7.8 million with its lender the Local Government Finance Authority. The period of the roll-over was six months. The Council was required to provide security over some of its assets to secure this loan. These loan requirements are an indication that the lender is yet to be convinced that the Council's financial position is secure for the long term. The level of borrowing has not increased since my appointment.

Stuart Highway closure

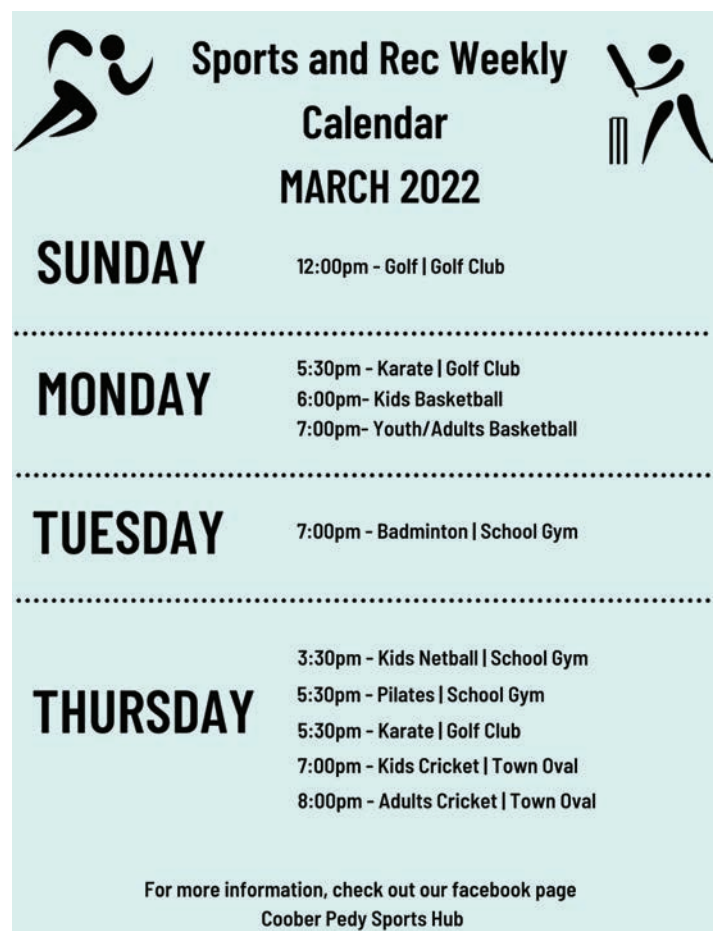
The recent closure of the Stuart Highway due to flooding presented significant challenges for the town. On behalf of all citizens of the Coober Pedy and the Far North, I thank the response agencies, volunteers and businesses for their incredible efforts to ensure the availability of essential and non-essential goods and services. Your efforts were truly amazing! Obviously, a review of the closure will be undertaken and hopefully an infrastructure solution will be found and funded to ensure it does not occur again.

State election

I encourage you exercise your democratic right to vote in the South Australian election on 19 March. Obviously, you need to factor in State and local issues in making your decisions.

Until next time.

Tim Jackson, Administrator, 0417 016 161



Sports and Rec Weekly
Calendar
MARCH 2022

SUNDAY 12:00pm - Golf | Golf Club

MONDAY 5:30pm - Karate | Golf Club
6:00pm - Kids Basketball
7:00pm - Youth/Adults Basketball

TUESDAY 7:00pm - Badminton | School Gym

THURSDAY 3:30pm - Kids Netball | School Gym
5:30pm - Pilates | School Gym
5:30pm - Karate | Golf Club
7:00pm - Kids Cricket | Town Oval
8:00pm - Adults Cricket | Town Oval

For more information, check out our facebook page
Coober Pedy Sports Hub

Smart Meter In-Home-Display (IHD) update

The Pipit 500 model is the in-home displays (IHD) provided to all Coober Pedy households free-of-charge as part of the Smart Meter Project rolled out in Coober Pedy late last year. IHDs are designed to keep customers engaged with their energy usage by displaying consumption information in user friendly numerical displays.

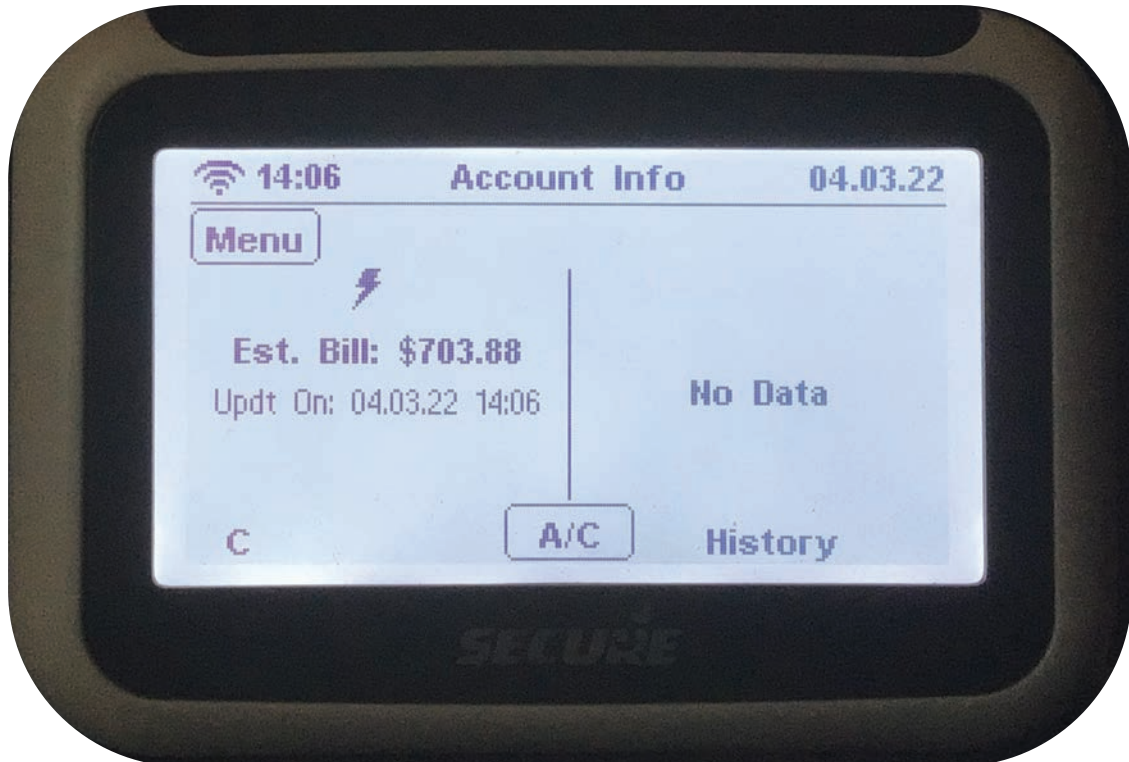
Electricity customers in Coober Pedy are likely confused as to why their IHDs are displaying inaccurate billing information as shown in the picture below.

Council bills customers quarterly. Unfortunately, the IHD firmware is designed for monthly billing cycles only.

This issue became apparent to Council in December 2021. Council has been seeking a solution to the problem for the past three to four months. The solution has not been forthcoming from Secure Meters, the software providers.

The Department for Energy and Mining funded and managed the procurement for the Smart Meter Project. Council has communicated the issue to the Department for Energy and Mining.

Council will continue to engage with the software providers in the hope of resolving the software issue and apologises to our customers for any inconvenience caused.



Parkrun coming to Coober Pedy

OZ Minerals is proud to support the establishment of a free weekly parkrun event for the community of Coober Pedy. Parkrun is a not-for-profit organisation established to benefit the entire community by providing a free, weekly, timed, volunteer-led 5km event every Saturday morning in the local area.

Park runs occur world-wide, encouraging local communities to walk, jog or run a 5km marked track to increase physical health, strengthen community connections and improve mental health.

Stay tuned for further details. If you would like to be a volunteer at the Parkrun events, please Coober Pedy Sports and Recreation Association via their Facebook page.

OZ Minerals employment opportunities

Interested in joining the team at OZ Minerals' Prominent Hill operations?

Then join our online talent community where you can receive alerts on newly advertised career opportunities at OZ Minerals.

Follow this link: <https://careers.ozminerals.com/> and make sure to fill in all your details so we can then search for you via your skills or qualifications!



Australia Day and Citizenship 2022



On 26 January, Council held the annual Australia Day celebrations at our community swimming pool. This year's theme was 'Reflect, Respect, Celebrate'.

Despite the sweltering 40+ degree heat and the closure of the Stuart Highway, members of our community enjoyed a fantastic event! Participants enjoyed a free Aussie-style sausage sizzle and cooled off in the pool to escape the blistering heat. We came together to reflect on what being an Australian means to us all. We celebrated all the things we love about Australia: land, sense of a fair go, lifestyle, democracy, the freedoms we enjoy, and particularly the people in our community!

We welcomed Rebecca Nicolle and Carmel Agrazada as new Australians at a citizenship ceremony held at the Council Chambers.

We also celebrated the achievements of the many significant contributors to our community with the Australia Day awards. The following awards were presented during the festivities:

Jacqui Boland *Citizen of the Year*

Jacqui is a long serving member of the community having been nominated for her contributions to the many activities, clubs and committees that she is a part of. She is a silent achiever, being driven by her passion and love for her home town.

Melissa Brave *Active Citizen*

Melissa is a dedicated volunteer for our local community radio station, Dusty Radio. Dusty Radio is an important local broadcasting medium that reports on local news and publicises community events free of charge.

Above: Rebecca Nicolle receives Australian Citizenship; Australia Day awards presentation; Free sausage sizzle proved a hit on the day.



International Women's Day *Community Event*

International Women's Day is a global celebration of the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The 2021 Coober Pedy International Women's Day event attracted over 150 local women. The event supported the women of Coober Pedy coming together to celebrate their achievements and rally for women's equality in our community. The event's sole sponsor was Peak Iron Mines. Congratulations to the organising committee consisting of Julie Hammermeister, Carrie Adamo, Rose Temple and Elsie Carboni.

Hayden Lewis *Certificate of Appreciation*

Hayden was nominated for his contribution to our community by supporting the welfare of animals. Hayden volunteers his time to provide, food, water, and basic vet support. Hayden works closely with Dawn Jones, our local animal welfare champion! He demonstrated active citizenship and enhanced community life by volunteering and dedicating his spare time to helping animals and by providing support to their owners.

Community events like Australia Day are not possible without support. On behalf of our community, Council thanks Goog, Ben and Johnathan for delivering and collecting the tables, chairs and shade marquees, Donna Clements and her team at the pool for their assistance in setting up for the day, John and Denise Broomfield for cooking the barbecue, and Isabella Jones for organising the event!



Australia Day
Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

2021/2022 Coober Pedy Community Grants Program now open!

Each year, Council and EDL make funds available for community focused, not-for-profit groups to assist in the operation of their organisation or for specific projects. This year, the Coober Pedy Retail Business and Tourism Association (CPRB&TA) have also contributed towards our Community Grants Program.

In response to the COVID pandemic and recent high rainfall in our region, EDL has generously doubled their contribution this year to \$30,000. Council will contribute \$25,000 and the CPRB&TA \$10,000. Grant applications will need to demonstrate how the project or activity aligns with both the vision and heart of *Coober Pedy Together*. The *Coober Pedy Together* initiative aims to bring about change, community spirit, community pride, and a collective vision. It's about creating a common plan and vision and resourcing our community to be able to create the place we want to live and/or preserve what makes Coober Pedy special.

For more information about the *Coober Pedy Together* initiative and information you will need to consider in your application, please visit their Facebook page – *Coober Pedy Together* or call Michael Edgecomb on 0421 389 490.

Grant guidelines and the application form can be downloaded from Council's website at www.cooberpedy.sa.gov.au/services/community-services/community-grants Alternatively, you can collect the documents in hardcopy format from the Council administration office.

Applications for grants exceeding \$1,000 must be accompanied by a current, audited financial statement.

Once applications close, they will be assessed against a set of criteria and provided with a score of how well they meet each criterion. Assessment of grant applications will be completed by an evaluation panel.

Applications will then be ranked and funded accordingly to funds available. Successful applicants will then be notified, and funds made available by the end of April 2022.

For further information on the Coober Pedy Community Grants Program please contact Isabella Jones on 8672 4600 or email ijones@cpcouncil.sa.gov.au

Applications close 5:00pm Monday 18 April 2022.

Coober Pedy Together

Thank you to everyone across our community who has given their time and energy to getting *Coober Pedy Together* off the ground. We finished 2021 with a united vision, community story, and an agreed way of working together. This work has laid a solid foundation to build on.

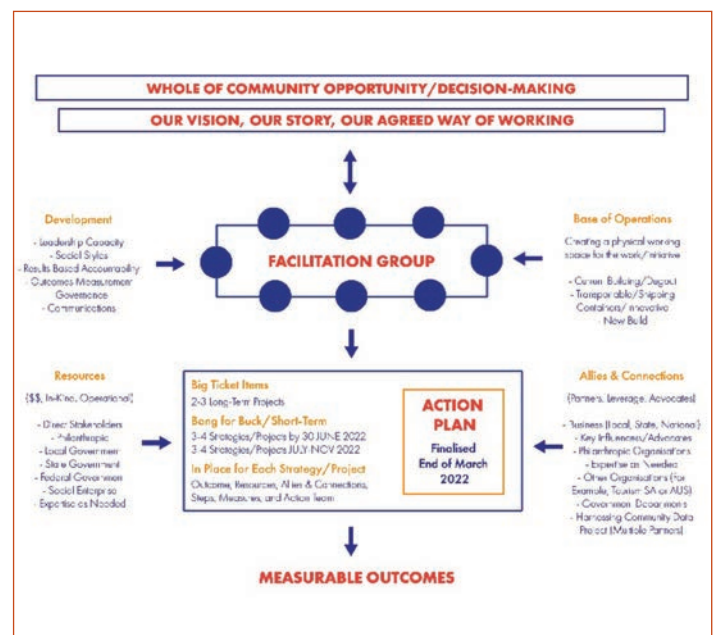
On Monday 28 February, a group of community members who had nominated themselves or been nominated by someone else, presented about themselves. It was a great night hearing people's stories, heart, and passion for Coober Pedy.

All in attendance had a chance to vote that evening. The presentations were uploaded to the web, and everyone had a chance to vote. Around 300 votes have been independently counted, and each nominee has been successful.

The facilitation group will consist of:

- Jacqui Boland
- Isabella Jones
- Julie O'Toole
- Des Roffey
- Nick Troisi
- Sabrina Troisi
- Sandy Williams

This group will now meet as soon as possible to finalise a 2022 action plan or roadmap. The plan will be to bring together resources, allies and connections, and to deliver outcomes as soon as possible.



If you want to know more or get involved, visit the *Coober Pedy Together* Facebook page, or reach out to cooberpedytogether@gmail.com

COOBER PEDY TOGETHER
Moving Forward As ONE Community
www.facebook.com/cooberpedytogether

Rain, grass and frogs in Kanku-Breakaways Conservation Park



What a start to 2022! During the recent regional rain event, Coober Pedy missed the heavy rain falls but they did not miss the Kanku-Breakaways Conservation Park. Heavy rains through the escarpment area caused significant damage to the roads within the park and meant access to the park was cut until it could be repaired. Roads were reopened and visitor numbers have started to increase.

Stuart Highway closure

Outback SA experienced a severe weather event in January which resulted in the closure of the Stuart Highway. The closure cut our community's primary supply line from the south for the first time since 1989.

The Australian Defence Force came to the rescue by flying 20 tonnes of food to our isolated community. On behalf of the community, Council thanks SAPOL and Council staff for assisting in unloading the planes. But the biggest shout out must go to the CFS and SES/Mines Rescue volunteers as well as Council employees, Alex Carmichael and Mark Hoad, for volunteering their own time during the relief effort. It's volunteers like you that keep our community strong!



Above: Stuart Highway flooded just outside Glendambo; Air Force carrier delivering much needed supplies.

The rain also caused the park to green up to be some of the greenest we have seen in a very long time, especially on the moon plain. Whilst it is totally different for locals to see it doesn't make it appealing for filmmakers who want desert landscapes.

The rain filled the various waterholes and old dams throughout the park. Park staff spent many evenings in the park over the last few weeks recording and observing tadpole and frog numbers and recording changes in development. The recent hot weather has meant the water is drying quickly so frogs are now burying themselves again until the next large rain. Our night time frog survey trips also showed a number of other residents including a children's python, a Myall or Curl Snake, various centipedes, too many spiders to count, and numerous different geckos.

Despite the dark, we were also on the lookout for weeds and found a new patch of the problematic buffelgrass. Park staff have been removing the buffel with care due to the close proximity to the frogs and waterways.

Stay on track

Unfortunately, we have seen an increase in visitors driving off-track in the past six months. Driving off the road causes significant damage to the sensitive environment and is a breach of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulations. It also increases the risk of vehicles depositing weed seeds in areas that are not regularly monitored and increases the difficulty of containing any resulting weed locations. If you visit the park please stay on the formed roads and within the public access areas of roads, lookouts and car parks.

Upcoming events

The Great Kanku-Breakaways Marathon is on again on 21 May 2022. Come out and join in the fun by doing either a 5km, 10km, 21.1km or 42.2km event. Walk, run or ride. There will also be a 2.4km kids' fun run, FREE community reconciliation BBQ, kids' activities thanks to Child and Parenting Support, stalls and painting. We also have a fabulous event t-shirt with artwork by Maureen Williams.

Check out www.greatkanku-breakawaysmarathon.com.au for more details and to register online.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Coober Pedy Opal Festival is back in 2022!

The event will take place on Saturday 18 June 2022. The festivities will commence at the Town Oval from midday and will conclude with a fireworks bonanza at 7pm. If you're still in party mode, then head to the Italian Club for the afterparty!

The volunteer committee is also bringing back features of our festival from yesteryear including the Opal Miners Hall of Fame and skydiving over our amazing opal fields!

The **Opal Miners Hall of Fame** celebrates our opal industry and the pioneers that built our town. You can nominate any opal miner actively mining prior to 1 January 1988. To nominate an opal miner, please contact info@opalfestival.com.au or call 0400 805 644 for a registration form.

Have you ever had a burning desire to jump out of a perfectly good aircraft? If so, then why not do it over our incredible opal fields? The **skydiving** on offer includes 30 seconds of freefall at 10,000ft, followed by 5 minutes of parachuting before landing back on terra firma. Early bird price is \$350 and must be paid in full by 31 March 2022. We must have 30 jumpers booked and paid by 31 March to confirm this event. Regular price is \$420 after 31 March 2022.



To enquire about skydiving or to make a booking please email info@opalfestival.com.au or call 0490 340 583.

A **stall at the festival** this year is cheap as chips at just \$22! It's a great way to sell your homemade arts and crafts, or to showcase your country of origin's cuisine. If you would like to have a stall on the day, please email info@opalfestival.com.au

The Opal Ball will kick off the weekend festivities on Friday night 17 June. Alternatively, you can enjoy night golf on Friday evening, or catch a movie at South Australia's last remaining drive-in theatre!

If fast cars drifting is more your thing, then head to the Coober Pedy Speedway on Sunday evening 19 June. The weekend festivities will finish at the RSL on Sunday night with dinner and live music. The full program for our community's premier annual festival will be uploaded to the website by 30 April 2022.

If you require any further information, you can check out our website www.opalfestival.com.au. All forms can be found on the website, or a hardcopy can be collected from the Council offices. Alternatively, you can call 0490 340 583 for more information.



District Council
of Coober Pedy

Service contact numbers

Administration
Office
(08) 8672 4600

Mini Gems
Children's Centre
(08) 8672 4623

Library
(08) 8672 4635

Electricity, Water,
Works Depot
(08) 86724 626

On-call numbers

Aerodrome
0400 108 230

Dog Control
0408 693 672

Electricity
0417 814 617

Water
0417 811 470

Works
0417 813 571