



District Council of Coober Pedy Newsletter

Welcome to the Opal Capital of the World

October 2021

From the Administrator



Thankyou to all those who attended the Coober Pedy Together event recently. I think it was a great success particularly having regard for the cross section of people in attendance. As advised last month this process was kicked off in 2019 by a group of energetic citizens keen to develop a plan for the town. While a lot of work was done by the group, the pandemic unfortunately intervened. Coober Pedy Together is designed to reactivate this process. It is important that over coming months we get as many people involved as possible. Also, it is important that we form a leadership group for the project. While the Council is funding the process on your behalf, it does not want to be seen to be leading it. Further details are provided elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Umoona Art Centre conducted its first exhibition in Adelaide last month. It was a fabulous demonstration of the creativity that exists in the town. The event was attended by a range of people but importantly by many of the artists themselves. Unfortunately, I was not able to be there for the official opening but was able to view the exhibition subsequently. Pleasingly, almost all of the works have been sold. This is the start of a very bright future for the Umoona Art Centre.

As you would hopefully be aware, the Council is seeking to significantly upgrade the town's water system. The Council's objectives are two fold - to ensure the town's water security for the long term and to achieve water pricing equity with SA Water consumers. Following an expression of interest process, the Council has now decided to called tenders. It is anticipated that the Council will be in a position to award the tender by the end of the calendar year. It is the expectation of the Council that if tenderers are unable to provide water in Coober Pedy at SA Water prices the State Government will either provide a subsidy or a capital grant to achieve this. The tender requires the operator to buy the existing water system from the Council. It is valued at approximately \$10 million. This will enable the Council to either retire all of its debt or to use its borrowing capacity to invest in other community infrastructure. The tender also requires the operator to transfer ownership of the system to the Council at the end of the agreement period.

The State Government has, in partnership with Local Government, created a website where you can compare Councils particularly in regard to their finances. You can compare rates, what Councils spend your money on, etc. This is a great step forward for ratepayers and citizens. You can access this information at:

<https://councilsinfocus.sa.gov.au/>

Until next time.

Tim Jackson
Administrator
0417 016 161

Service Contact Numbers

Administration Office
(08) 8672 4600

Mini Gems Childrens' 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



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Community Feed and Dream

Coober Pedy Together

Eating, Dreaming, Yarning & Moving Forward

Summary & Next Steps

Communities have a stronger voice and greater opportunities if they stand together. Over sixty people gathered at the Opal Fields Golf Club on Thursday 30 September for an important conversation. It was an opportunity for all members of the community to come together. A wide range of people came along and shared their thoughts on the identity of Cooper Pedy in 2021, current hopes and opportunities, and how this work might be led by the community.

There is no shortage of passion and heart in the people of Cooper Pedy. This is a community who wants to find a way forward, a new season for everyone

- said facilitator Michael Edgecomb.

It is important to recognise that many people have been involved in all sorts of planning workshops, consultations, and working groups over the course of the Cooper Pedy story. These plans and the hard work that made them happen, will not be forgotten. It's these plans, this work, and legacy of many people which provide the foundation for moving forward. This night was an evolution of this foundation.

'This workshop was only the beginning. There are now steps to take to put these ideas into action. We need to bring together a community leadership group to lead it, to prioritise key actions items, and to establish a way of working or set of values for the community and the work.'

'The people who attended explored who Cooper Pedy is in 2021, dreams and opportunities for moving forward together, the type of leadership needed for the work, and what quick wins could be achieved to gain further credibility and trust with the community.'

You can access a full summary report of the conversations had on the night, on the council website.

Plans are coming together for two additional workshops before the year is out to continue the work. If you would like to be included on the mailing list for Cooper Pedy Together, please reach out via email to: cooberpedytogether@gmail.com

**COOBER PEDY
SPORTS & REC
COMMITTEE
AGM**

**SUNDAY 7TH
NOVEMBER
2:00PM @ TOWN OVAL**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT PAUL MADURO
0499 444 482**



Supporting SA's Next Generation of Olympians

SA Country Athlete Awards, Scholarships, and Funding to create next batch of Olympians

The Marshall-Liberal Government has announced scholarships for individual athletes to assist them in taking their skills to the highest sporting level. The Individual Athlete Program (IAP) provides financial support to committed athletes for 12 months. To be eligible the sport must be an Olympic, Paralympic or Commonwealth Games Sport. Applications close midday November 3.

\$102.4 million is being set aside for the Active Club Programme (ACP), clubs are encouraged to apply for \$3,000 grants for equipment and programme funding. Applications for the ACP close midday November 17.

Country Athlete Awards are being offered to individuals between the ages of 13- 18 living more than 130km away from Adelaide. Nominees are identified as having the potential to progress to senior ranks within their chosen sport.

Cooper Pedy Golf Open

The Cooper Pedy Opal Fields Golf Club held their annual golf open weekend on the 21st and 22nd August 2021. It was well attended by locals and visiting players from Roxby Downs and Whyalla. The weather was perfect for the teams to head out and play their ambrose on Saturday and despite dire wind warnings for Sunday the wind held off until after play was complete.

The Roxby Downs team edged out the Cooper Pedy team to take honours in this years interclub competition. Two players from Roxby Downs had their scores compared to two chosen players (decided before the play began) from Cooper Pedy.

The Cooper Pedy Opal Fields Golf Club sincerely thank the sponsors of the weekend Umoona Opal Mine and Museum, Opalios, Johns Pizza Bar and Restaurant, CK Confectionaire, Eddie Hughes MP, Tjitji Tjapa Tjuta Child Care Centre and Perry's Fuel Distributors. The club also thank the wonderful volunteers who maintain the course and club rooms, as well as do all of the many tasks involved in maintaining the Cooper Pedy Opal Fields Golf Club throughout the year.

Please look out for next years golf open weekend and come along to enjoy great food, exercise and company.

Dog Behaviouralist

ARE YOU AND YOUR FOUR LEGGED FRIEND NOT SEEING EYE TO EYE?

Call Brian Frisby a trained animal behaviourist on 0472592441 if you would like to learn how to be the boss "Alpha".

Arrangement will be made for a time and day to work together on the oval.





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Coober Pedy Good Sports Program

In September, Gabby and Lisa from the Alcohol and Drug Foundation visited Coober Pedy and delivered a forum on the Good Sports program. Lisa recently joined the Alcohol and Drug Foundation as a Senior Community Development Officer based in Adelaide and is excited to work with the Coober Pedy community again.

The Alcohol and Drug Foundation is Australia's leading organisation committed to inspiring positive change and delivering evidence-based approaches to minimise alcohol and drug harm.

Communities play an important role in identifying and preventing local alcohol and other drug-related issues and deaths. They're critical in building a healthier Australia. Through their community programs, drug information services and policy work, the Alcohol and Drug Foundation is committed to preventing and minimising harms from alcohol and other drugs.

One of these community programs includes Good Sports, Australia's largest community health sports program helping build strong community sporting clubs across Australia for over 20 years.

Designed for busy sports clubs, Good Sports takes the guesswork out of complying with legal requirements and gives sports clubs the upper hand when it comes to attracting funding, new members and volunteers.

More than 10,000 Good Sports clubs are using the program's free tools and resources to build a policy

around alcohol management, smoking regulations, mental health, illegal drugs and safe transport that together add up to help create a safe, welcoming, family friendly environment.

Good Sports is proven to reduce risky drinking at participating clubs by 37% and has seen a reduction of alcohol-related accidents among club members and supporters reduce by 42%.

"We know that participation in supervised leisure activities can lessen the influence of risk factors which can delay the uptake and reduce the likelihood and harm of alcohol and other drug use, especially in young people," said Lisa.

Good Sports clubs can be confident that not only are they contributing to the prevention and minimisation of harm from alcohol and other drugs in their communities, but they have a wide range of resources at their fingertips. They also have a Good Sports relationship manager who they can turn to whenever they need it.

There's no cost to join Good Sports - it's free for all community sporting clubs in Australia. Join today at <https://goodsports.com.au/join/> or contact Lisa at lawton@adf.org.au to find out more.

For information and support, people can visit the Alcohol and Drug Foundation's website adf.org.au or call the DrugInfo line on 1300 85 85 84.

Coober Pedy Chemist Wins



Congratulations to Coober Pedy Chemist, not only are they the only Chemist in Coober Pedy, ensuring the town has its pharmaceutical needs met - they have won an award doing it!

Coober Pedy Pharmacy has won 'Most Improved' Top Teir Winners in their Industry Awards.





Umoona Art Gallery Exhibition

At the end of September Umoona Community Council and the APY Art Centre Collective teamed up to open the exhibition 'Umoona Art from Umoona and Coober Pedy' as part of Art Exhibition Tarnathi. Tarnathi is a platform in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Artists can share their stories. The exhibition has been selling out, and features local artists Myra Kumantjara, George Cooley, Joanne O'Toole, Patricia Fatt, Pearl Austin, Tanya van Horen and other emerging artists.

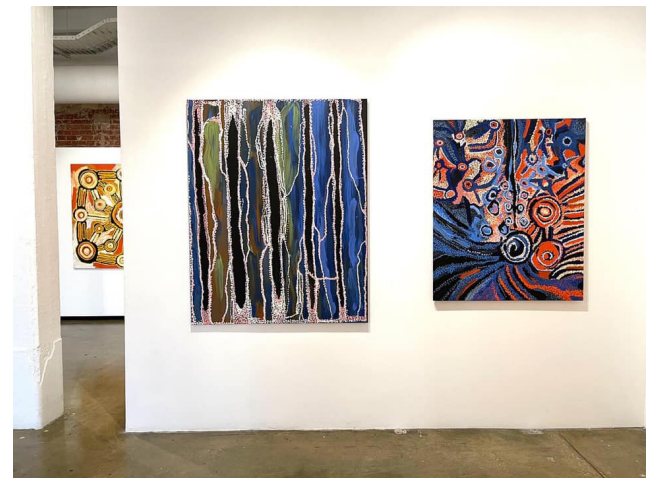
***It's about trying to bring that sense of kinship.
That togetherness, that thing that forms the
community. And the community is not about it's
board, it's not about the organisation, it's about
the people themselves.***

- Dean Walker

Katrine Hildyard MP has called the exhibition outstanding.

Skye O'Meara, general manager of the APY Art Centre Collective, has said the Umoona Arts Centre could be one of the most successful art centres in the next 5 years.

While there is currently no permanent Art Centre in Coober Pedy, the creation of a board of Community Leaders, has started the process for creating one.



COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic

Coober Pedy TAFE will host a Pfizer Vaccination Clinic from the 16th - 18th of November. To make a booking visit: www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/regionalclinics or scan the code.

For assistance with booking; call SA COVID-19 Information line on 1800 253 787.

You must wait 7 days between having a Flu Vaccination and a COVID-19 Vaccination

COVID -19 Moderna Vaccine Now Available

Coober Pedy Chemist are now able to offer the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine for people 12 years or older. Call 8672 3444 if you would like to make a booking.





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Mini Gems Update

Mini Gems Children's Centre provides an enriching experience for the children it cares for (and the staff have fun too!).

It's been a few busy months for the centre with nature walks, National Science Week, and Book Week. Mini Gems children joined for a nature walk and collected leaves and barks in a bucket. Everyone enjoyed the leave stamping activity afterwards to promote becoming socially responsible and show respect to the environment. Mini Gems educators created a game called "Frozen Ocean" for the children to play during National Science Week. It quickly became a favourite with the children as they 'rescued animals' while playing.

Mini Gems even entered its own Olympics in celebration of the recent games. Our little Olympic champions made their own cardboard box cars and winners got a medal after the race. These kinds of activities improve childrens' developmental learning such as cooperation, curiosity, creativity, and, imagination. Children resource their own learning through natural and processed materials.



New Program Announcement:

Magical Mums - Share our Space Fortnightly - Wednesdays 11am to 2pm. A new program in partnership with Uniting Country SA, offering parenting support, counselling support and financial support.

Change to the Billing of Bin Collection for Business

Businesses in Coober Pedy receive one free bin collection per week. Extra bins used to cost \$7 per bin, and invoices were calculated weekly.

This has now changed. Coober Pedy businesses still receive one free bin collection per week, however, extra bins have been reduced to a cost of \$5 per bin. This is because the District Council of Coober Pedy is now charging annually for bin collections, based on the average of bins collected over the last 3 years. Council will be performing random checks during the year to make sure the charges are accurate.

Want to better understand your rates notice or utilities bills? Come along to the

COUNCIL INFORMATION SESSION

THURSDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2021

6:30PM

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

- Understanding the supply charges on your utility bills
- Ask questions about your rates notice
- Objection process of valuation or land use

Submit your questions at the Council Office or by emailing slorente@cpccouncil.sa.gov.au



Electricity Smart Meters:

The installation of Smart Meters throughout Cooper Pedy is part of the State Government's Remote Area Energy Supply Scheme (RAES). The installation of these meters is at no cost to you or Cooper Pedy Council.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the difference between my current meter and a Smart Meter?

Your current meter requires a meter reader to enter your property and take a reading. A Smart Meter will send the reading electronically to the Council, saving the meter readers from upsetting any guard dogs!

Do I have to have a smart meter installed?

Yes, under the national rules that apply to South Australia, all new electricity meters that are installed must now be Smart Meters. Meters that are currently installed are older designs, and are reaching the end of their functional life. Even if you had a meter installed in the last 12 months, the new regulations and new design mean your meter is reaching the end of its functional life.

How long does a smart meter installation take?

A Smart Meter takes 1-2 hours to install. The power will be out during the installation for the installer's safety.

Does a Smart Meter Transfer my personal information?

No, your smart meter will not use or transmit any personal information.

Are there any health concerns with Smart Meters?

There are no established scientific evidence that Smart Meters cause any health effects. The transmission from your Wifi, TV Signal and radio, are all higher than your new Smart Meter.

Do I have to do anything to get a Smart Meter installed?

Simply ensure the installer can access your property when they come to install the meter, and that's it! If your property is normally locked, call council when you receive your notice of installation letter.

How do I know when my Smart Meter will be installed?

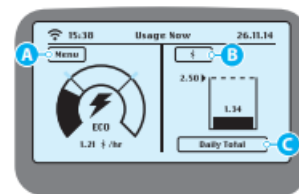
When your street is due for installation, you will receive a letter from council advising you of a two week period in which your meter will be installed. If we can't access your property, we will get in touch with you to arrange installation

I have a Smart Meter installed, but my In Home Energy Display isn't working, what do I do?

Turn the display off. Stand next to your Smart Meter and turn it back on again. This should reboot the display and allow the Display to reconnect to your meter.

Using your Pipit 500

The Pipit 500 is an in-home energy display which receives information wirelessly from your new smart electricity meter.



The default screen (titled 'Usage Now') shows two displays; the Instantaneous use dial (left), and the Daily totals graph (right). The unit selection button (B) can be used to cycle through the units shown in the displays; \$, CO₂ or kWh.

Instantaneous use dial (left)

This dial shows how much electricity is being used right now. As your load increases (as you turn on more or bigger appliances), the dial will fill.

The dial is broken into 3 segments representing a small load ('Eco'), medium load ('Med'), or big load ('High').

The number in the middle of the dial shows exactly how much electricity you are currently using.

Daily totals graph (right)

This graph shows how much electricity has been used since midnight. By pressing the View selection button (C), you can choose to view:

- today's use vs daily target
- today's use vs yesterday's use
- this week's use vs last week's use
- tariff information.

The menu button (A) provides access to additional settings and information.

For more information, refer to the book supplied with the Pipit 500.



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Staff Profile: Alexandra

Who is the face of Council?

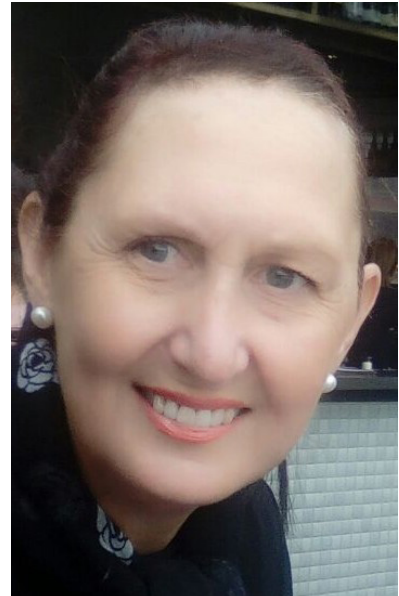
No really, whose face springs to mind when you think of popping into council? We bet its this lovely one!

Alexandra, or AJ as her nearest and dearest know her, is your go to for all things front counter. Need to pay a bill? Sorted. Want some information on pricing or what's on in town? If Alexandra doesn't know it, she will find out for you. Just having an average day and popping in to pay a bill? She'll have you leaving feeling better after one of her heartfelt smiles and reassurances. She ensures everyone leaves feeling heard and is quite often your first step in solving a problem.

Alexandra has been with council for four and a half years and loves it.

Give Alexandra a happy hello the next time you pop in.

Alexandra really is a memorable part of the team, and her customer service is renowned throughout Australia! Brian of Texas, Queensland, made a special trip across the Simpson Desert just to visit Alexandra, and thank her for her customer service from almost two years ago "She was fantastic. We needed a permit, which was going to take a few weeks to arrive. She spent half a day on the phone, inbetween her regular customers, just to help us. We got through because of her." Alexandra had given the couple a business card, and they had "hung onto it like it was gold, just so we could come back and say thank you."



Alexandra



Pictured: Brian of Texas Queensland, and his wife

