



District Council of Coober Pedy Newsletter

Welcome to the Opal Capital of the World

June 2021

Message from Administrator

I begin this month by congratulating all involved in the organisation of the Opal Festival. What a fabulous event! It had something for everybody. Well attended and successful community events are so important for the well being of a community. Last month I talked about the importance of volunteering in communities. This event was a fine example of people doing exactly that. Further details are provided elsewhere in this newsletter. I can't wait for next year!

The next Local Government elections in South Australia are not scheduled until November 2022. The town needs to start thinking about this issue soon. As you know, the situation in Coober Pedy is different to the rest of the State because of what has happened over the last decade which culminated in the suspension of the elected Council. Over the coming months, the options available to town in terms of its Local Government model will be canvassed.

- return to a voter elected Council;
- return to a voter elected Council with the Minister retaining control over all or some matters such as the Audit Committee, CEO Oversight Committee, the Presiding Member and commercial activities; and

- retain an administrator - I HAVE ALREADY STATED PUBLICLY THAT I AM NOT AVAILABLE.

Some of these would require legislative change. In my opinion a poll of voters should be undertaken to determine whether voters want an elected Council or an administrator.

During the month it was my pleasure on behalf of the citizens of the outback to welcome two new Australian citizens. Normally, the people becoming Australian citizens reside in Coober Pedy. In this case

one person resides on a cattle station two hundred kilometres to the north while the other person lives in William Creek. By coincidence, they both originally hail from the UK. This is such an uplifting experience. These people bring incredible enthusiasm and aspiration to our country and the town. Further details are provided elsewhere in this newsletter.

Council has considered its draft Annual Business Plan. Council is required to produce such a document once a year after consulting its community. The consultation will occur soon. The proposed Plan includes the budget for the year along with Council's objectives for the year. The good news is that Council is forecasting an underlying breakeven result. Revenue from municipal rates will only increase by the movement in the consumer price index. Council is now in a position to start dealing with the backlog of asset renewal, particularly roads. The negative is that water prices will need to significantly increase again. Hopefully, the process Council has commenced with the State Government to replace the water system will in due course see prices fall significantly. Further details are provided elsewhere in this newsletter.

The next Coober Pedy Roundtable will be held on Monday 2 August 2021. The Roundtable is a meeting of the Federal member, Rowan Ramsay, the State Member, Eddie Hughes and myself. It occurs every six months and its purpose is to monitor the progress of the town. Anyone can attend either in person or on line. Further details will be provided shortly.

Tim Jackson,
Administrator
tjackson@cpccouncil.sa.gov.au

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

Child and Parenting Support Programs

Thursday 10am - **Tiny Tackers at The Shed (Youth Shed)**

For 0 - 5 year olds and their parents/carers.

Saturday 10am - **Little Musicians at The Shed (Youth Shed)**

Music fun for children and their parents/carers. Music is designed for 0 - 5 yrs

All welcome

Contact Raksha on 0427 264 969 for more information.



District Council of Cooper Pedy Newsletter

Welcome to the Opal Capital of the World

June 2021

Unpaid Rates

The auctions of properties for unpaid rates took place on Thursday 10 and Friday 11 June 2021.

A total of 33 properties were sold. Some properties were passed in and sold during negotiations at the end of the day.

The auctions took place at the Desert Cave Conference room. About 50 people attended in person and about 40 were bidding online.

The main buyers were from Cooper Pedy, New South Wales and Victoria. Council is expecting to recover about 60% of the outstanding rates owing.

Community Consultation on Library Operating Hours

Council would love to hear from our Community Library users. Library hours for the community members were decreased due to the pandemic in 2020. Council and the Education Department are interested in your views as to what the library operation hours should be for the community.

Saturday only

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. OR
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. OR
12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday only

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. OR
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. OR
12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. OR
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

AND

Sunday

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. OR
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

OR REMAIN AS IS

Saturday closed S u n d a y
12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Please call Julie Hammermeister if you have a view 86724601



Kanku-Breakaways Conservation Park

Are you undertaking commercial activities in the Kanku-Breakaways Conservation Park? If so, do you have the necessary licences or permits?

For details on the licences or permits you need please see

<https://www.cooperpedy.sa.gov.au/district-information/kanku-breakaways-conservation-park>

or contact the Executive Officer on

phone: 0499 982 999
email: breakaways@cpccouncil.sa.gov.au

Shell Carpark

The proprietors of the Shell service station have sought and gained planning consent to develop the land adjoining the service station as a carpark.

The planning consent does not automatically authorise the use of the land as a carpark by the proprietors. A lease agreement between proprietors and the council for construction, maintenance, risk management and insurance is now required.

A draft lease agreement is being prepared by the proponent for consideration by Council.

Water Business Expressions of Interest

On 8th of June, Council sought expressions of interest closing on the 2 July from organizations interested in investing in and operating Council's water system. A public information forum was held on the 21st of June to enable questions to be answered.

An evaluation of the expressions of interest will be undertaken by a panel which includes two independent evaluators to assess the submissions. This will be followed by the preparation of a detailed specification to enable selective tenders to be sought from a shortlist of registrants.

The primary objective of this process is to reduce prices to Adelaide levels and to provide water security. It is Council's expectation that if Adelaide prices cannot be achieved through this process that the State Government will subsidize the service to achieve

Lot 639 Aylett Street	\$16,000
Lot 363 BCA Road	\$1,800
Lot 254 Bean Street	\$11,000
Lot 1401 Beinke Drive	\$2,500
Lot 1420 Beinke Drive	\$2,100
Lot 1421 Beinke Drive	\$2,000
Lot 1218 Cactus Road	\$2,000
Lot 988 Crismani Close	\$61,000
Lot 415 Fitzgerald Street	\$25,000
Lot 1403 Goldsworthy Street	\$2,500
Lot 846 Gough Street	\$36,000
Lot 930 Hallion Street	\$34,000
Lot 298 Hocking Street	\$2,400
Lot 427 Hospital Road	\$2,000
Lot 1422 Oodnadatta Road	\$2,500
Lot 1377 Rankin Drive	\$27,000
Lot 629 Stretton Road	\$17,500
Lot 813 Van Brugge Street	\$34,000
Lot 246 Bean Street	\$10,300
Lot 247 Bean Street	\$41,000
Lot 1756 Burford Place	\$2,500
Lot 1339 Burke Street	\$2,750
Lot 1174 Chadwick Street	\$3,800
Lot 1613 Flat Hill Road	\$2,000
Lot 409 Jones Street	\$3,500
Lot 400 Medway Drive	\$5,000
Lot 689 Malliotis Boulevard	\$9,000
Lot 1599 Marsh Place	\$5,900
Lot 437 Mohr Court	\$10,500
Lot 849 Post Office Hill Road	\$7,600
Lot 771 Sexton Court	\$40,000
Lot 1721 Stuart Highway	\$5,600
Lot 708 Traegar Street	\$6,400



District Council of Coober Pedy Newsletter

Welcome to the Opal Capital of the World

June 2021

Your Chance to Have a Say on Council's Annual Business Plan and Budget

2021/22 Annual Business Plan and Budget

Council is seeking the views of the community on the draft 2021-22 Annual Business Plan (ABP) and Budget. The ABP describes Council's plans for the 2021-22 financial year and sets out the activities Council intends to carry out during the year. It also describes how it will fund its activities. The budget shows where Council's money will be spent and how each strategic activity will be funded.

The draft ABP and budget can be downloaded at <https://www.cooberpedy.sa.gov.au/council-information/finance/budgets>

A hard copy can also be obtained at the Council office.

There will be an opportunity to find out more about the draft ABP and budget at an information and Q&A session which will be held on Tuesday 6 July at the Council Chamber, starting at 7:00pm.

The community can make comment on this document by:

1. Making a verbal submission at the Council meeting on 13 July 2021. The meeting will start at 7:00pm;
2. Making a written submission, to be received no later than 5:00pm on 23 July 2021. All written submissions will be published in a Council meeting agenda. Written submissions can be delivered
 - a. By email to jhammermeister@cpcouncil.sa.gov.au
 - b. By mail to PO Box 425, Coober Pedy 5723
 - c. Handing in at Council's Office at Hutchison Street, Coober Pedy
3. By making a comment on the Council website (noting that all submissions will be published in a Council meeting agenda).

Kanku-Breakaways

The Kanku-Breakaways Conservation park has long been a favourite place for locals to visit. It is still a fantastic place to visit to recharge and unwind, and enjoy the natural environment. The Kanku-Breakaways Conservation Park staff would like to remind all visitors that there are limitations on where you can drive and walk within the park. The entire park is a registered Aboriginal Heritage Site as well as being a Conservation Park. This means that accessing areas other than through the main road through the park and the dedicated parking areas puts both the cultural heritage and natural environment at risk. If you are driving or riding through areas close to the park boundary please make sure you know where you are and do not enter the park unless on the main access road from the Stuart Highway or from the Kempe Rd. Any other tracks into the park are not tracks the Board has set aside for vehicles which means you will be in breach of the regulations governing the park. Accessing old tracks or going across country into the park puts the entire park at risk of increased weed impact as well as the immediate and long term damage that vehicles cause to the sensitive environment. Please stick to the roads and parking areas that are dedicated for this purpose.

Your Chance to Have a Say on Recreational Vehicle Camping

Council is seeking the views of the community on "Recreational Vehicle Camping".

The Recreational Vehicle Camping information can be downloaded here <https://www.cooberpedy.sa.gov.au/noticeboard/public-consultation>

A hard copy can also be obtained at Council office.

There will be an opportunity to find out more about Recreational Vehicle Camping at an information and Q&A session which will be held on Tuesday 27 July at the Council Chamber, starting at 7:00pm.

The community can make comment on this document by:

1. Making a verbal submission at the Council meeting on 10 August 2021. The meeting will start at 7:00pm;
2. Making a written submission, to be received no later than 5:00pm on 8 August 2021. All written submissions will be published in a Council meeting agenda. Written submissions can be delivered
 - a. By email to dculpin@cpcouncil.sa.gov.au
 - b. By mail to PO Box 425, Coober Pedy 5723
 - c. Handing in at Council's Office at Hutchison Street, Coober Pedy
3. By making a comment on Council website (noting that all submissions will be published in a Council meeting agenda).





District Council of Coober Pedy Newsletter

Welcome to the Opal Capital of the World

June 2021





District Council of Cooper Pedy Newsletter

Welcome to the Opal Capital of the World

June 2021





District Council of Cooper Pedy Newsletter

Welcome to the Opal Capital of the World

June 2021



yourite.

The 2021 Opal Festival commenced on Thursday, 17 June.

The "Southern Sisters" who had travelled from Adelaide, offered a make-up course for anyone wanting to turn into a "Queen" for the night. Many of the contestants for the "Priscilla, Queen of the Desert" competition was held on Saturday, took advantage of this offer.

On Friday night, Priscilla, Queen of the Desert, screened at the Drive-In. Over 55 car loads of people enjoyed the movie, first released 25 years ago. After the movie, the United Club was the venue for an "80's TV Soap-themed party, with several performances by the Southern Sisters.

The Opal Festival kicked off at 12:00 p.m. Saturday 19 June. Andrew Dingaman opened the event with "Welcome to Country". Jason Wright was the most entertaining Master of Ceremonies! He did a wonderful job of introducing each of the 15 float entrants. It was very obvious that a lot of pride, love and attention to detail went into the preparation and design of each float.

Priscilla, Queen of the Desert competition took place at 1:00 p.m. The crowds roared with laughter as each of the seven competitors strutted their stuff on the rocky surface in their heels! All competitors, including our Administrator, Tim Jackson were dressed to kill and had flawless make-up!

The afternoon was full of laughter and fun! There were games galore! "Toss the Bomb" and "Guess the Weight" proved to be the crowd fa-

This year the Opal Festival organising committee focused on family and children. Mini Gems set up a tent offering activities to children. Jump Easy Castle and Party Hire set up three giant activities, offering free rides and fairy floss for all children.

Stall holders, offering a wide range of products and services were in abundance this year. Vendors travelled from all over the state to be part of this wonderful event.

Overall, the Opal Festival attracted over 1300 people, with 850 at its peak on opening.

The beautiful fireworks and magnificent light and sound show was witnessed by almost 400 people.

At 8:00 p.m. Saturday night, the Italian Club opened its doors and presented a live performance by the "Southern Sisters".

Sunday was the last day of the Opal Festival. The Speedway Meet was on and attracted almost 200 spectators. A BBQ was available from 12:30 p.m.

Wayne Parkinson performed Country and Western at the RSL.





District Council of Coober Pedy Newsletter

Welcome to the Opal Capital of the World

June 2021



Mini Gems and Children and Parenting Support News

On Saturday 19th of June, Mini Gems Children's Centre and Children and Parenting Support (CaPS) organized a family fun tent at the Opal Festival and also entered the float parade.

Weeks of hard work and team effort resulted with a big reward as their float won 'Best decorated float & Kid's prize'. Participation of children and their families made it possible to win.

Afterwards, engagement of the families and children in the family fun tent for activities and face painting made it more worthwhile. The feedback from parents, carers and children was highly encouraging and positive.

Mini Gems and CaPS are certainly looking forward to holding more programs and events like this in the future and would like to thank the Opal Festival committee, and all who participated.

A very special thanks to Chevahn Hoad and Breakaways staff for helping make our contribution to this event very successful.





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Welcome to the Opal Capital of the World

June 2021

Coober Pedy Quiet Achievers

Coober Pedy Sign - Back in the White!!

WELL DONE to the volunteers! Salome Lorente - for making it all happen!

True Value Hardware - Tim Carter- for donating the paint.

Aaron Noble from Noble Tours, and Nicko Farantouris from Old Timers Mine, for donating their time to the painting of this huge sign.



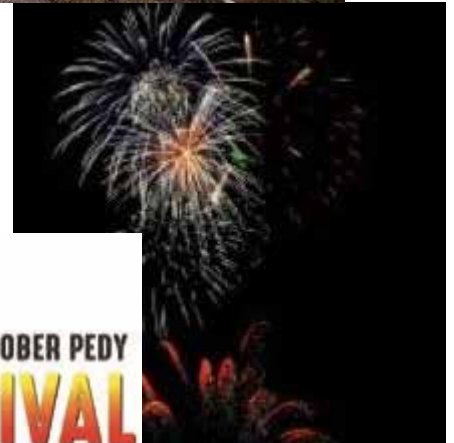
Opal Festival 2021

A big thank you to the Opal Festival committee for organising this magnificent and very successful event.

Council would like to personally thank Salome Lorente, Nicko Farantouris, Raylene Hagel, Nick, Paul Howard, Terry Brennan-Kuss, Jason Wright, Ariane MRoberge and for the continuous support of Kath Mitchell and Dave Peggy.

Many have said that this was by far, the best Opal Festival event ever!

WELL DONE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Australian Citizenship Ceremony

A citizenship ceremony is where you make the Australian citizenship pledge. For many people, this is the final step in the journey to becoming an Australian. The ceremony is usually held within 6 months of hearing about your approval.

Council Chamber was the venue to host an Australian Citizenship Ceremony for 2 people on Thursday 17 June at 10:00 am.

Francesca and Taylor, both from the United Kingdom, enjoyed tasty beef pies and a delicious lamington cake for morning tea, catered by CK Confectionaire.





District Council of Coober Pedy Newsletter

Welcome to the Opal Capital of the World

June 2021

Kanku Breakaways Marathon

(held on Saturday 15 May 2021)
Blue skies, cool air and sunshine greeted runners at the start line of the Great Kanku-Breakaways Marathon, proving that mid-May is an excellent time of year for outdoor activities in the outback.

The marathon, put on by the Kanku-Breakaways Conservation Park Co-Management Group, not only provided a great event for competitors but also uniquely showcased the landscape to locals and visitors alike.

Set along the stunning escarpment and through the limestone land formations, the course took runners and riders across the "moon plane" and along the dog-fence, before returning along the slightly undulating road to the main lookout.

"The course for the longer distances is deceptively challenging, and isn't as flat as people think" race director Alison Fenton said.

This year 120 people entered the event, with some from country New South Wales, Alice Springs and Adelaide.

With distances of 42.2km, 21.1km, 10km, 5km, and 2.3km for kids, there was an event for everyone. Plus you could ride your bike if running wasn't quite your thing.

An age range of 3 to 75+ years young took part this year. We also had an increase in the number of women participating in the longer distances.

"We had women represented in all of the race distances this year. It was something we worked quite hard on," Alison said.

There were a number of firsts cel-

ebrated this year - first marathon, first running event, first time visiting the park, not to mention those that actually finished first. And in another first, we used a local artist to design the event artwork. Natalie Austin's painting was featured on our marketing material, prizes and trophies, and t-shirts.

We were thrilled that Natalie was able to spend the day out at the park with us. Competitors were excited to meet her, with many taking the opportunity to thank her for her beautiful painting.

We celebrated other milestones too, like NSW runner Kaz Cookes 265th marathon and sadly, local Jayde Grava's last event before her family's relocation to Cooktown, Queensland.

And after runners had cooled off and received a unique finishers' medal, they were rewarded with a wonderful community barbeque. It was a great opportunity for them to reflect on their achievements, plus enjoy some Coober Pedy hospitality.

We are aiming to build numbers again next year. We are altering the course, we'll have a new event artist and we'd like to see an increase in junior and outback participants in the future. This race is a great opportunity to run something a little bit different, enjoy some community spirit and experience a very unique town.

Congratulations to our winners and everyone who took part. Huge thanks to our major sponsors and supporters Oz Minerals, Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara Aboriginal Corporation, District Council of Coober Pedy, Shell Coober Pedy, and Sodexo. Without them, this

event could not happen.

We look forward to seeing everyone again next year!

Clean-up Coober Pedy

We will be meeting at Council car-park on Sunday 18 July at 11:00 a.m. Council will provide garbage bags, but please bring your own gloves.



Superannuation

Accessing your super early

There are very strict laws about when a fund can release your super.

1. Incapacity – you are not able to work because of a physical or mental medical condition.
 2. Severe Financial hardship – you have received Centrelink benefits for 26 continuous weeks and are still not able to meet your immediate living expenses.
 3. Compassionate grounds – you need to pay for medical costs, change your home or car for a disability, stop your home being sold or pay for a funeral of a dependent.
 4. Terminal medical condition
- For more information you can call the Australian Taxation Office on 131020.

For more information on financial hardship you are welcome to book an appointment with our Financial Inclusion Officer, Carrie Adamo, at 28 Paxton Road, Coober Pedy, or call 0438577250.



District Council of Coober Pedy Newsletter

Welcome to the Opal Capital of the World

June 2021



NAIDOC Week Heal Country!

Activities for kids and families

Monday 5th of July to Friday 9th of July

at Youth Shed, Coober Pedy

Whole community warmly welcome!

MONDAY: Painting on canvas

Painting competition for children & Colouring in. Breakfast will be provided.

Time: 9am-11am at Youth Shed

TUESDAY: Painting on canvas

Painting competition for children & Colouring in. Breakfast will be provided.

Time: 9am-11am at Youth Shed

Wednesday: Malu (Kangaroo) tail cooking and children's activities

Time: 9am-11am at Youth Shed

Thursday: Native plant walk starting at the youth shed

Breakfast will be provided.

Time: 9am-11am at Youth Shed and surrounds

Friday: Malu (Kangaroo) tail cooking and children's activities

Time: 9am-11am at Youth Shed

Due to COVID restriction changes events may change at short notice.

