



# DISTRICT COUNCIL OF COOPER PEDY

*Welcome to the Opal Capital of the World*

Newsletter

November/December 2021

## From the Administrator



### Festive Period

As the year approaches its end, I wish you and your family all the best for the festive period. It has again been a challenging year as we continue to deal with threats to our health and economic wellbeing. I congratulate you on how you have dealt with this and I urge you to maintain your commitment and resilience to this threat.

### Community Events

There have been a number of community events in recent weeks which demonstrate the civic pride of our town.

I was pleased to be able to attend the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Coober Pedy RSL recently. It was a moving ceremony particularly as students from our school laid a wreath which was made at the school. Congratulations to President Raylene Hagel and her Committee for ensuring this significant event was held.

I attended the the Coober Pedy Enough dedication ceremony for those who have been impacted by domestic violence. A moving ceremony was held at The Triangle. Unfortunately, our record in respect of domestic violence is the worst in the State. The Sisters and The Emus are working together to change this. A big thank you to all involved particularly United Country.

### Coober Pedy Area School

The Year 11 and 12 School Graduation Ceremony was held recently at the Desert Cave and I had the pleasure of attending. It was so inspiring to see how these young people conducted themselves on the evening. They certainly have a bright future. Congratulations to all involved particularly the students and teachers.



### Australia Day

It is important that we recognise those that make a significant voluntary contribution to their communities. The Australia Day Awards provide an opportunity to do this. Please consider nominating those in Coober Pedy who are worthy of recognition. The last day for nominations is the 20th of December 2021. To nominate someone, complete the form at this website: <https://www.citizenoftheyear.com.au/nominate/>

It is important to celebrate Australia Day as it is a day when we can celebrate all that is good about living in a democracy like Australia.





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## **Coober Pedy Together**

Thankyou to all those who attended the recent Coober Pedy Together events held since our last newsletter. 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. This needs to be led by the community.

## **COVID Preparedness**

Vaccination rates continue to be low in Coober Pedy and the Far North when compared to other parts of the State. If you intend to get vaccinated please do so as quickly as possible. This will help to ensure our health system is not overwhelming. Due to our vaccination rates a specific plan has been devised for Coober Pedy and the Far North to deal with an outbreak. Please see the insert from the Eyre and Far North Local Health Network.



## **State Election**

The State Election will be held on Saturday 19 March 2022. It is important that Coober Pedy draw to the attention of the State Government things requiring State Government attention. Such a document is being prepared by the Council for release and discussion with the candidates for the electorate of Giles two months before the election. This document will be informed by the Coober Pedy Together process and in subsequent years will years will be prepared by its leadership group.

## **Smart Metres**

The roll out of the Smart Metres Prohject for electricity in Coober Pedy is the largest project undertaken in the town for some years. It has been relatively problem free which is a testament to all involved. These metres will allow electricity users to monitor their electricity use and cost in real time.

## **Water Security and Equity**

As you would hopefully be aware, the Council is seeking to significantly upgrade the town's water production and reticulation 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.

In last month's newsletter, I advised you that the Council anticipated being in a position to award the tender by the end of the calendar year. Following a visit to Coober Pedy by the prospective tenders in recent weeks, it has become clear that our contractual and service documentation, and information is deficient. As a consequence, it has been necessary to postpone the closing date for tenders. In the coming weeks a revised closing date will be provided to prospective tenders.

I again take the opportunity to remind you that 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 such as roads.

The tender also requires the operator to transfer ownership of the system to the Council at the end of the agreement period.

Until next time.





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## Well-Being Labyrinth

Coober Pedy's Well-Being Labyrinth is completed. A labyrinth promotes inner peace, and winding your way through the seven circuits is said to keep the left side of your brain engaged while allowing the right side of your brain to roam free - fostering a free spirit and allowing creativity to flow. Many people are able to solve their problems while walking this path.

While the District Council of Coober Pedy's Works Department formed the base of the labyrinth, it was the community who have brought it to life. A huge thank you to the Labyrinth Committee. Your vision has brought a beautiful, peaceful new aspect to our community. However, it is not over yet! The committee would love to add to the space, to make it more beautiful and peaceful.



**COMMUNITY GARDEN?**

- Are you Interested? •  
Would you get involved?
- Seeking all ages and abilities •  
to create a grass roots project
- no experience needed •  
just enthusiasm to get the project off the ground

Our Facebook Page - Coober Pedy community garden  
Jeni 0487287289 ayresjeni@gmail.com  
Karen 0428717550 kingram@bigpond.net.au

## Community Garden Project

The newest community project is an initiative by Jeni Ayres and Karen Inghram.

At the moment the project is feeling around for levels of interest, and what the community would like in terms of a community garden.

Please take moment to fill out the survey these lovely ladies have put together, it will take less than 3 minutes and will be key to creating the perfect community garden.

The survey can be found at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/X86P9FB>

To keep updated and learn some very handy gardening tips follow the Facebook page: Coober Pedy community garden.





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## 'Coober Pedy says Enough'

'Coober Pedy says Enough' is a relatively new campaign by the Sisters and Emus, launched to highlight the prevalence of domestic violence in Coober Pedy and reducing it through education and support. This year the Sisters and Emus have worked together to create the Memorial, reflection seating and distributing badges and emergency cards across the community.

The main aim for next year is to create ways to support victims of family and domestic violence specific for our town.



## A Peaceful Place of Rememberance

On the 18th of November, Uniting Country SA, the Sisters and the Emus unveiled the beautiful Rememberance Benches. In a moving ceremony, the quiet place for reflection and rememberance was unveiled. Speeches and poems left those in attendance with goose bumps. The benches are beautiful, and the white ribbons and lanterns added the perfect touch.

Award winning ABC reporter Gabriella Marchant was present for the ceremony. You can read her article on the ABC Website and view the story on ABC Iview.



## Uniting Country, Sisters and Emus

Uniting Country SA are the main domestic and family violence agency in Coober Pedy. Working with Uniting Country SA, there are two domestic violence (DV) support groups - the Sisters and the Emus.

The Sisters is a network of women from across the Coober Pedy Community including business, agencies, services and mining. These women are concerned by the DV statistics in the community, and create a gentle, loving and supportive environment for those affected by DV. They will welcome you, just like a sister would. The group emerged after International Women's Day this year and are sponsored by Peak Iron Mines. If you would like to join the group in the new year, please see Rose Temple, Julie Hammermeister, Lia Pantelis or Colleen Dar.

The Emus is a men's group aiming to support men in breaking generational abuse, providing a safe place to learn, and talk. This is a safe, non-judgemental place in which men can open up and learn from and support one another. If you would like to join the Emus please see Peter Boaf, George Cooley or Tim Jackson.

### Helpful Numbers

**Emergency:**  
**Police, Fire, Ambulance**  
000

**Police non-emergency:**  
131 444

**Uniting Country**  
(08) 8672 5220

**Sisters 24/7**  
0488 991 945

**MensLine Australia**  
1300 789 978

**DV Counselling**  
1800 737 732



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## Thank you

Uniting Country SA, the Sisters & the Emus would like to thank the following people and organisations for their kindness and generosity.

Sisters  
Emus

Uniting Country SA  
Peak Iron Mines

Umoona Community Council

DCCP Works Department & Parks & Gardens

SES Mines Rescue

Dusty Radio (and translation team)

IGA & the Carter Family

Outback Bar & Grill

John Lawysz

Markus Hammermeister

District Council Cooper Pedy (volunteers who provided concreting and edging, and sound support)



Rhonda, Julie and Dr Harry Randhawa CEO Uniting Country SA



Emus Peter Boaf and George Cooley. Image courtesy of ABC



Sister's Group



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Newsletter

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## Swimming Pool Update:

Visiting the Swimming Pool this summer is a great way to keep cool, and with season passes available, visiting every day can become cost effective. There are also programs running over the summer which will require a pool entry fee as well as program fees.



## Coober Pedy Holiday Swim

5 DAY PROGRAM  
10 - 14 JANUARY 2022

DETAILS INCLUDE:

Active Swim and Survive **Level D1-7** lessons are 45 **Minutes**

### PROGRAM FEES

- \$35.00 per child (additional pool entry fees apply)



## Aqua Aerobics

MONDAY  
WEDNESDAY  
FRIDAY  
6:00PM

SATURDAY  
1:00PM

\$15 SESSION (NOT INCLUDING ENTRY INTO POOL)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
DONNA:  
0434 357 851

FIRST SESSION FREE

## Swimming Pool Fees

ENTRY FEE	
ADULT:	\$6
CHILD:	\$3
BABY/SPECTATOR:	\$1

SEASON PASS	
ADULT:	\$110
CHILD:	\$72
FAMILY:	\$220

CASH ONLY AT THE SWIMMING POOL.  
SEASON PASSES AVAILABLE AT COUNCIL





## Looking After Your Pets in the Heat

Dogs, cats, and birds all feel the heat in the same way we do. If you're feeling hot, they are too! Make sure your pet has access to a cool space, some shelter, and plenty of water. Many retailers sell cooling mats, which can help your pet regulate their own temperature by allowing them to choose when to lay down and cool off. Why not consider making some frozen treats? These treats will not only keep your pet cool, but will also be a source of entertainment.

Dogs and cats don't sweat like humans do, they sweat only through their paws. Dogs and Cats will pant to try and cool themselves down, and cats will lick themselves excessively to try and dampen their fur. If you notice your pet doing any of these things, bring them into a cooler area and give them a bowl of fresh water.

Consider a fur cut! If your pet is extra furry, you may want to give them a new 'do. Many locals shave their pets in the summer months to help them keep cool. Just don't go too short! You don't want to risk sunburn.

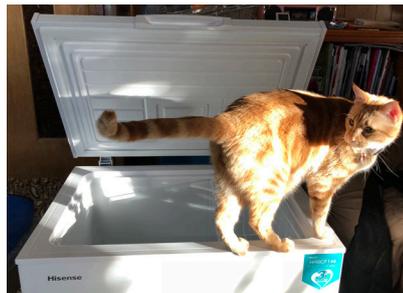
### Rules for Walking Fido:

It is important to ensure your dog doesn't miss out on their exercise while the weather is extreme. The best times to walk your dog will be early morning and late evening, avoiding the heat of the day. The biggest obstacle is of course the temperature of the ground. A dog's paws are as sensitive as the back of your hand, and they can be burnt very easily. Before you start your walk, take your hand and place the back of it on the ground, leaving it there for 5 seconds. If it's too hot or uncomfortable for your hand, then it's not safe for your dog. Alternatively, you could get Fido a nice new set of shoes!

**Preparing for the heat**

- Learn the signs of heat related illness
- Ask your GP how your medications may affect you when it's hot
- Check that your fans and air conditioning are working
- Make a plan to keep in contact with older people
- Think about how you will look after your pets
- Put together a small emergency kit, including torch batteries

Government of South Australia



Flyn keeping cool laying on tiles, checking out a freezer, and laying on his cool mat. Images courtesy of Kylie-Anne

## Doggy Clean up bags Now Available!

Avid dog walkers will have noticed that there are no longer doggy clean up bags available at the oval. Unfortunately this is due to vandalism. HOWEVER, you can now collect your complimentary Doggy Clean Up bags at the Council Chambers, or from the Works Department. Come on in, grab your bags, and say hi!





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## Learning through Music

### Little Musicians

Designed for 3 - 5 year olds  
Everyone welcome

**When:** Every Saturday  
10:00am to 10:45am

**Where:** The Shed, (Youth Shed behind the playground)



Singing,  
drama and  
dance



Contact Raksha Acharya on  
0427 264 969

## CaPS Programs



They say time flies when you're having fun, and yet another year has come to a close in a blink of an eye!

The CaPS (Children and Parenting Support) team want to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude for the support from our parents/carers and children, and all those helping hands who made it possible to run our programmes continuously throughout the year. We value our opportunity to serve you and look forward to doing so in the new year. Sending our very best wishes for Christmas and a Happy New Year.

CaPS is organizing an appreciation Christmas party for the parents and children who have been greatly supportive of our regular programmes. Everyone is welcome on Saturday 18th of December, in place of Little Musicians. Come along and enjoy the snacks with Christmas Carols!

- Raksha Acharya,

Outreach and Children & Parenting Support (CaPs) Facilitator

**Uniting Country SA**  
&  
**CaPS (DCCP)**

**MAGICAL MOM'S**  
SHARE OUR SPACE

**Venue:** The Shed (Youth SHed)  
**Start from** 25th of August  
**Every Wednesday**  
**Time:** 10am-12pm

**Aims:**  
Financial Support  
Parenting Support  
Counselling

**Share our Space**  
for, cooking, washing Laundries  
Meals & Creche Provided (with  
different childrens activities)

**Contact:**  
Dora (UCSA), ph.no. 0488991945  
Janet (UCSA), ph.no. 0427515883  
Raksha (CaPS), ph.no. 0427264969

**LET'S LIFT EACH OTHER UP**

**Tiny Tackers**

0 - 5 YEAR OLDS AND THEIR PARENTS/CARERS  
EXPECTING MUMS WELCOME

Come along, relax and have a chat about health and wellbeing, social skills, nutrition, child development and anything else you would like to talk about!

Visiting specialists and special interest sessions will change each week as guided or requested by the attendees.

Thursdays 10am to Middyay  
At The Shed (Youth Shed)  
Contact: Raksha Acharya on 0427264969



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## Mini Gems

### A Spooktacular Time

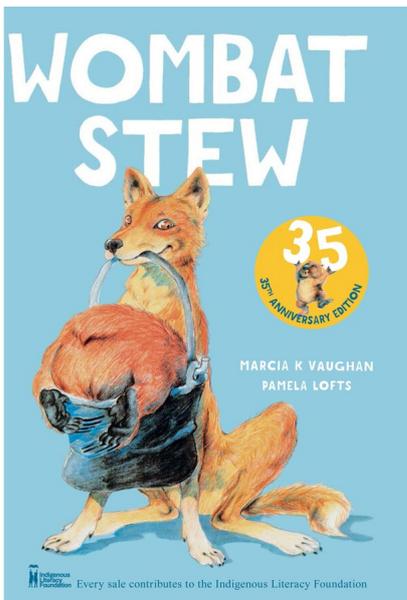
Things were very Spooktacular in Mini Gems this Halloween, with the Children utilising their fine motor skills to help decorate the Centre. The children dressed up in their favourite Halloween Costumes and explored Halloween themed books and arts activities.

### Interior Decorating, Gardening and Yoga!

The Children have been learning about nature, animals and plants. Their craft activities included making paper based turtles, bees, ladybugs and caterpillars. They have chosen to display them in the Mini Gems foyer. The sunflower seeds that were planted back in June are now flowering beautifully. The children have enjoyed watching them grow and learning how to care for them. As part of the morning group time, the children are practicing yoga! This promotes the importance of physical and mental health, and how caring for both is what makes you truly healthy.



### Bush Cooking - Wombat Stew!



Combining nature, exercise, and cookery is not an easy thing to do - that is unless you are making Wombat Stew! Our Mini Gems have been reading the classic children's book Wombat Stew. Everyone knows the right ingredients for Wombat Stew cannot be found in the supermarket, so the children headed out on a nature walk and picked up what they needed along the way! Exploring the natural environment and making their own Wombat Stew tested their ability to follow instructions and their comprehension skills. By all accounts, this was a Wombat Stew that Dingo wouldn't be able to turn down!





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## Christmas Closures: Mini Gems

Mini Gems will be closed for 3 weeks for Christmas. The last working day will Thursday the 16th of December. The Centre will be closed from the 17th of December and will re-open on Monday the 10th of January.

Please ensure that the booking form for 2022 for your child/children attending Mini Gems in 2022 is completed and returned on or before the 6th of December 2021.

## Council Chambers

Closed from the 22nd of December 2021 and reopening on the 4th of January 2022.

## Works Depot

Closed from the 22nd of December 2021 and reopening on the 4th of January 2022. All on call numbers and services will remain active during this time.

## New Opening Hours:

### Waste Depot

The below times are effective from Monday 15th November 2021.

Monday	12.45pm to 3.45pm
Wednesday	12.45pm to 3.45pm
Friday	12.45pm to 3.00pm
Saturday	9.00am to 1.00pm

Closed on Public Holidays

### IMPORTANT INFO:

Severe weather conditions may change scheduled opening times.

Phone 8672 4626 Mon-Fri 7.30am to 3.30pm for information.



## GARBAGE COLLECTION CHANGES

Dear Customer,

This is a reminder that there is no garbage collection on public holidays.

Please read the below information for your updated collection day(s).

### Christmas

Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> December 2021

**Public Holiday:** Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> December, 2021

**Collection Day:** Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> December 2021

### Proclamation Day

Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> December 2021

**Collection Day:** Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> December 2021

### New Year's Day

Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022

**Public Holiday:** Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022

**Collection Day:** Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

### Australia Day

Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**Collection Day:** Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022





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## Staff Profile:

Many of you will know Alex, he's been with Council for a number of years, doing many different jobs.

Alex's wide skillset and adaptability has seen him work in many departments. He was a literal Life Saver at the Swimming Pool, let his inner child shine as a Youth Worker, his gem of a sense of humour helped him spruik the town at the Visitor Information Centre, and now his electric personality has added a spark to the Electricity Department.

You could be forgiven for thinking that Alex, and the rest of the electricity department live onsite, as no matter what time of day you call that emergency line, one of them is always there to answer.

Alex is an apprentice linesman, and is in the final year of his apprenticeship. You may have seen him up the top of a stoby pole, or assisting with connecting your power. You may have even seen his friendly face when you've called to say something has gone wrong with your electricity supply.

Alex's day usually starts when most of us are still snoozing our alarms. Each day is different, one day he's at the top of the cherry picker, the next he's assisting with an emergency power outage. One thing is for sure: his colleagues say he is always exactly where you need him, and usually with a great smile on his face.

*"I've had almost endless opportunities to pick up new skills in new roles. I've appreciated the time and opportunities that this apprenticeship has afforded me. I've been extremely lucky with the work crew I'm part of."*

- Alex



*"Alex is a happy go lucky guy with a great smile, he's got a good nature and is great for the team. He's the first to put his hand up to help, and to cover the standby roster"*

- Grant, Electrical Distribution Supervisor

### 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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**Sunday 19th December**  
**11AM - 2PM**

**Xmas**  
**CAR**  
**BOOT**  
**SALE**

**Council Car Park**  
**No cost – bring your car and table!**  
**Free admission**  
**New items, trash and treasure, packaged food items (with ingredients), gifts, craft items**

**RSVP 15th December**  
**Contact: Karen 0428717550 or Desley 0448280829**

Made with PosterMyWall.com



***The District Council of Coober Pedy wishes you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year.***