



District Council of Coober Pedy Newsletter

Welcome to the Opal Capital of the World

January/February 2021



Child and Parenting Support Programs

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

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



31st March - 1st April 2021

Australian Opal 2030 VISION 10TH NATIONAL OPAL SYMPOSIUM

Creating a clear vision for the future of the Opal Industry

- Industry Innovations
- Upskilling
- Miners from 3 states
- Internet selling Techniques
- Social Media Influences
- University Specialists
- Experts in Mining, Geology, Gemology & Paelontology.

Register online @ www.opalsymposium.org

Thurs Night 1st April
Exclusive Showing
Symposium Attendees Only

5pm to Late
Cafe Bar Open
live music with Barry Lewis.

Sat 3rd & Sun 4th April

Afternoon
FREE show screening (for locals)
lounge on the lawn
live music with Barry Lewis.

Sat 3rd & Sun 4th April

COOPER PEDY GEM TRADE SHOW
Hosted by The Croatian Club - Flinders St
Contact Paul Reynolds Ph 0418 815 396

Sun 4th April

Cooper Pedy Night Speedway
Look for further details on facebook

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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Message from the Administrator

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2021. This newsletter covers January and February. For the remainder of the calendar year it will be produced monthly.

The town celebrated Australia Day with an event at the pool. It was well attended and provided an opportunity to recognise individuals and organisations who made a significant contribution to the town. On behalf of Coober Pedy citizens, I again congratulate all nominees and award recipients. I would also like to thank people who took the time to nominate others. Further details are provided elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Coober Pedy 2030 process kicked off in mid 2019. It involved citizens articulating their aspirations for the town in 2030. While the first six months saw a flurry of activity, not much progress was made in 2020 due to the pandemic. A review of the project has been undertaken and it will recommence shortly.

The decision of the Coober Pedy Regional Times to "doctor" my Letter to the Editor (Feb 12 edition) regarding the "remarkable" turnaround in Council's finances is the most unprofessional act I have seen by a newspaper in my forty odd years of being involved in local affairs.

This year we will see another census. Censuses are extremely important in terms of planning the future needs of Australian society. They are held every five years. It

is extremely important that as many people as possible complete the census. Council will work with the Bureau of Statistics to maximise participation.

Recent anti-social behaviour, particularly in Hutchinson Street, is of concern amongst tourists, traders, others and Council. A number of meetings have been held in recent weeks to explore what is happening and what can be done. Council will play a leadership role in respect of this issue as it has in the past. See the separate article on this elsewhere in the newsletter.

Peak Iron Mines presented to Council late last year on the reopening of the Peculiar Knob Mine and its development of a number of mining tenements in the area adjacent to Coober Pedy. Magnetite and haematite ore are, and will be, mined. The recommissioning of the Peculiar Knob Mine has created 130 jobs in mining, road haulage and port operation. The remaining mine life is 3 to 4 years. The company estimates that it has so far spent \$700k with Coober Pedy suppliers. The other tenements, known as the Buzzard Project, are scheduled to commence in 2022. The number of jobs to be created is estimated to be 200. The mine life is estimated to be 5 to 7 years. Council looks forward to working with the company to maximise the benefits for our town.

Your sincerely,

Tim Jackson, Administrator
0417 016 161
T.Jackson@cpcouncil.sa.gov.au

Safety, Law, and Order Meetings

On Thursday 28 January, a group of 10 business people met in the Council Chamber to air their grievances in relation to anti-social behaviour in town. The following Monday 1 February, Council met with agencies including SAPOL, AFSS, Uniting Country, Housing SA, Umoona Council, a community engagement consultant employed by Council, and some business people, to inform them of the concerns raised at the previous meeting and to discuss potential solutions to address the problem.

There is general acceptance that one of the major causes of anti-social behaviour is the consumption of alcohol.

Since the last meeting we have agreed to meet monthly. The next meeting will be Monday 15 March at 11:00 am. The State's Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, Liquor and Gambling, Dini Soulio, joined our most recent Council meeting via Zoom. This was a great opportunity for the community to engage with, the Commissioner in relation to the sale and consumption of alcohol in Coober Pedy.

More than a year has passed since Council, traders and the Commissioner have met. Council and the Commissioner agreed to resume quarterly meetings as a matter of priority. A copy of the Coober Pedy Accord is available at <https://www.liquoraccord.org/sa> and will be placed on Council's website.





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In conjunction with the State Government, Council will soon call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) from private water companies to produce, distribute and possibly retail potable water and waste water in Coober Pedy. The objective is to test the market to seek a reinvestment in Council's asset and bring down the price of water comparable to Adelaide prices. Council will be open to all viable options. A panel consisting of Council, Local Government Procurement SA, and other independent experts will be created to assess EOI responses and shortlist candidates to go forward to a full tender process. Already a number of private companies have approached Council expressing an interest in supplying water to Coober Pedy, so we are confident of a competitive response to the initial EOI process.

Council recently resolved to proceed with the implementation of smart electricity meters. The cost will be fully funded by the Remote Area Energy Subsidy Scheme. We expect the process to be completed by September 2021. The meters will be procured directly by the Dept of Energy and Mining from India. Key features of smart meters include:

- An in-house display for customers to monitor electricity usage;
- Ability to pre-pay electricity;
- Better monitoring of electricity quality by Council;
- Significant savings in reading meters and issuing bills;
- Accurate billing

At the last Council meeting, representatives from the Department gave a brief presentation on smart meters and answered questions from those present. Further information, including fact sheets, will be

provided to citizens as the project rolls out. The Department has created a 'Pay As You Go Customer Consultation Group' across the RAES scheme area to provide citizens with a voice in relation to the pre-payment aspect of smart meters. If anyone is interested in joining this group, please contact Council's CEO on 8672 4600.

In a couple of weeks, Council will commence community consultation on a review of our seven by-laws. By-laws are a legal mechanism to help Council to control access to, and use of, Council land. Council can use by-laws for the good rule and government of the town, and for the comfort, convenience and safety of the community. Once the proposed by-laws are advertised the community will have at least 21 days to make a written submission. Citizens will also have the opportunity to make verbal submissions at a Council meeting.

Mini Gems

We would like to introduce you to our newest staff members Edelyn and Libby, who are trainees completing Cert III in Early Childhood Education and Care. The traineeships are for a term of 12 to 18 months and have been made possible via funding opportunities through the CEG traineeship initiatives, youth intervention strategies and local employment initiatives. They will reduce salary costs for Council, and give youth opportunities to gain qualifications and experience in a growth industry. Edelyn and Libby spent the Christmas break period decorating, cleaning and refurbishing the centre to create a breast-feeding friendly staff room. They also created a new floor layout for the children and deep-cleaned our entire centre.

This hard work contributed to ensuring that the Mini Gems Centre complies with current Covid-19 best-practice. A big thank you to community members for their generous donations of furniture to assist.



Edelyn and Libby also completed mandatory industry training Through Their Eyes, SIDs, First Aid and Infection Control. January also saw our dedicated early educators participate in team building, Early Years Learning Framework planning and, for some, an update to their professional training and development. They also prepared the centre for a fantastic 2021 with children ranging from 8 weeks of age to 4 years.

Having early childhood educators provides Coober Pedy families with essential alternative early intervention referral pathways to Allied Health Professionals. This means they are less likely to need special educational placements or repeat a grade in school. They are more likely to complete secondary school and go on to further education and be employed at a higher wage.

Mini Gems currently has vacancies and would love to assist any families wanting quality early education and care for their babies and children.



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Australia Day Pool Party 2021

Australia Day proved to be a huge success! A crowd of over 130 people gathered at the pool to enjoy the wonderful atmosphere, sausage sizzle, cool drinks, smoothies and witness the presentations.

Dean Miller, CEO, was our Master of Ceremonies for the day. He introduced Dora Mushongera to perform "Welcome to Country".

Chevahn Hoad, Citizen of the Year 2020, gave a wonderful speech on "Life in Coober Pedy".

We had four categories this year!

Tim Jackson, Administrator, announced our winners, and with the assistance of Chevahn Hoad, the nominees were presented with their certificates.

Australian Citizen of the Year was awarded to Karen Jones. **Young Citizen of the Year** was awarded to Shannon Mazzone. **Community Event of the Year** was awarded to the Greek Club. **Active Citizen of the Year** was awarded to David Peggy and to the Coober Pedy Drive-In.

Council would like to say a BIG thank you to all who volunteered their time and efforts on the day. None of this would have been possible without you!

Donna and her staff ensured everyone's safety for our event. Council would also like to thank Paul Howard for making those delicious smoothies and to Anthony Alexandrou for his wonderful live performance.

The SES set up an Arachnipod for their display and provided an information stall to attract volunteers. Becoming a volunteer can provide numerous benefits including learning hands-on practical skills, free nationally-accredited training and connecting with your community. If you have some time on your hands, take that step today and sign up to become a volunteer.

