



District Council of Coober Pedy Newsletter

Welcome to the Opal Capital of the World

May 2021

Message from Administrator

No doubt you have observed in the last month the significant uplift in tourists which is great for business and employment in the town. Hopefully, these levels will continue for the remainder of the season.

In the last month or so there have been numerous events in town which is great in terms on community pride and spirit.

Thanks to Raelene Hagel and her Committee for organising the Anzac Day ceremony and associated activities. The attendance at these events was excellent which is a credit to our citizens in terms of remembering and thanking those that served. It was great to see a number of tourists taking up the opportunity to attend these ceremonies.

The Kanku-Breakaways Marathon and associated events were held on 15 May. It was a great day offering varying levels of physical assertion. Again to the organiser, the Kanku-Breakaways Co-management Board, congratulations on a fine event which offers something unique to locals and others. Chevahn Hoad and Alison Fenton deserve a special mention.

National Volunteering Week is celebrated each year in May. It is an opportunity for Australians to thank our volunteers. Our country would not function anywhere near as well as it does if it was not for our volunteers. This year the Council held an event on your behalf to thank our voluntary organisations and their volun-

teers. Further details are provided elsewhere in this newsletter.

During the month it was my pleasure on behalf of the citizens of the town to welcome five new Australian citizens. 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.

On 8 June Council will seek expressions of interest from organisations interested in investing in and operating the Council's water system. The primary objectives of this process are to reduce prices to Adelaide levels and to provide water security. It is the Council's expectation that if Adelaide prices cannot be achieved through this process that the State Government will subsidise the service to achieve this. There is a level of concern in the community that the Council is selling the water system. THIS IS NOT THE CASE. OWNERSHIP OF THE SYSTEM WILL REVERT TO THE COUNCIL AT THE END OF THE AGREEMENT.

The Commissioner responsible for liquor control was in Coober Pedy in May at the request of the Council. A number of meetings were held with various people. As a result, the Council resolved to approach various State Government officials - liquor control, health and policing - about future required action. Further details are included later in this newsletter.

The Council conducted its third and final formal review of its budget and Council is required to do this three times each year. The Council's Audit Committee is also involved in the process. The Council is forecasting an underlying deficit of approximately \$367k at year end compared to a budgeted deficit of \$148k. The primary reason for the unfavourable result compared to budget is the impact of the pandemic on water sales. It compares extremely favourably to the annual underlying deficit of \$2.7 million inherited by this administration in 2019. Further details are provided later in this newsletter.

Until next time.

Tim Jackson

Administrator

tjackson@cpcouncil.as.gov.au

0417 016 161

Unpaid Rates

The sale of properties for unpaid rates will occur on Thursday 10 June and Friday 11 June 2021 at the Conference Room on the first level of Desert Cave Hotel.

The registrations to bid on site open at 8:30a.m. and the auctions will start at 9:00a.m.

If you wish to bid online, you will have to register to participate to the Zoom Webinar. The link is available on the first page of the Council website (www.cooberpedy.sa.gov.au).

There are, at this date, 12 houses, 6 dugouts and 17 vacant land lots for sale. The list of properties is available online or at the Council office.



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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 5 people on Thursday 13 May, at 10:00 am.

Our happy participants enjoyed chicken or vegetarian pies and lamington cake for morning tea.





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Children and Parenting Support- CaPS News

CaPS is continuously delivering programmes for children and their carers. Recently there was a Little Musician training for all carers in Coober Pedy. It was delivered by Carol and her Partner Michel (founder of Musical Child) and was well recieved. Participants were from Mini Gems Children Centre, Djitji Tjapu Tjuta Community Day Centre, and local community members.

Similarly, on Saturday 17th of April, CaPS held a Musical Show in place of Little Musicians which was very well attended by local and tourists families. All the children and families enjoyed the show run by Warren. Volunteers who were dressed in different animal's costumes brought more light and fun to the show. The room was full of laughter and smiles. The feedback from volunteers and families was really encouraging and positive. At the end of the show, children and parents also enjoyed the snacks which mirrored the same popularity.

CaPS intends to organize more events like this in the future for children and their carers.

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.





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Water Recycling

Council has been committed to recycling its waste water wherever possible. This year Council has been successful in irrigating the oval over a full seasonal cycle using a subsurface irrigation system. The use of waste water is only possible after the water has been treated to comply with the Australian Water Quality Standards.

The subsurface method of irrigation was used many years ago but was abandoned reputedly due to technical difficulties with the water quality. The new subsurface system is using an abandoned subsurface seepage drainage system to transmit the water from below the ground surface to the root zone of the grass.

The use of recycled waste water to irrigate the oval avoids the use of expensive drinking water resulting in savings in operating costs. The Council has recycled 42.9 mega litres of waste water over the last 12 months.

Labyrinth

At the Council meeting on 22 September 2020, Council resolved to consult with the community regarding the creation of a labyrinth on land known as the Triangle. A public notice was published in the Adelaide Advertiser, Council's website, Council's Facebook page, Mail Chimp mail-out and the public noticeboards at the Post Office and IGA Supermarket on 15 April 2021. The closing date for submissions was 7 May 2021. No written submissions were received by the due date and no one has notified Council of a desire to make a verbal submission. The Administrator invited members of the public to make a submission on the by-laws at the meeting on 11 May 2021. One person spoke in

favour of the proposal and no one spoke against.

Council has granted consent for the Labyrinth project, subject to the Manager of Works and Water being satisfied with the governance, design, and WHS aspects of the project.

By-Laws

At the Council meeting on 13 April 2021, Council resolved to consult with the community regarding proposed by-laws numbered 1 to 8. A public notice was published in the Adelaide Advertiser, Council's website, Council's Facebook page, Mail Chimp mail-out and the public noticeboards at the Post Office and IGA Supermarket on 15 April 2021. The closing date for submissions was 7 May 2021. No written submissions were received by the due date and no one has notified Council of a desire to make a verbal submission. The Administrator invited members of the public to make a submission on the By-laws at the meeting on 11 May 2021. No one who was present at the meeting spoke.

The Dog and Cat Management Board is satisfied with By-law 5 Dogs and By-law 6 Cats and has declined to make a submission. Council's lawyer has provided the required certificate attesting that Council has the legal authority to make the By-laws. This certificate was tabled at the meeting as Attachment 5.

The by-laws have been adopted by Council, and the following actions will now occur:

- a notice will be published in the Adelaide Advertiser and the Government Gazette;
- the Chief Executive Officer will sign two copies of the By-laws;
- a copy of the reports for the By-laws will be submitted to the Leg

islative Review Committee of the State Parliament within six Parliamentary sitting days of the Council's adoption of the By-laws;

- a separate register will be kept of all By-laws made or adopted by the Council;

- at a future Council meeting, Council will set by resolution expiation fees for breaches of the By-laws as the expiation fees are not set by the By-laws;

- at a future Council meeting, Council may, by resolution, authorise certain employees of the Council to grant permits under the By-laws; and

- in accordance with Section 132 of the Local Government Act 1999, the Council will make its By-laws available on the internet.

The By-laws will be effective four months after publication of the notice in the Gazette unless disallowed by Parliament.

New Appointments

Council is pleased to announce Desley Culpin as one of the new General Managers. Desley has held senior leadership roles in remote communities, including Yalata Aboriginal Community. She is from Adelaide and commenced work on Wednesday 26th May 2021. Please join us in making Desley feel welcome when you get the chance.

Stephen Staines is returning to Coober Pedy and joining us as a General Manager also. Steve is a previous Councillor and Mayor. Steve is leaving his position as Manager, Stakeholder and Government Relations at Peak Iron Mines and will commence in his new role on Monday 5 July. Most of you will know Steve so give him a big welcome back to Coober Pedy!

Lynette Trott is our new Finance



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Manager. She is a Certified Practising Accountant and will be joining us on Monday 7 June. Please welcome her to Cooper Pedy also. Our new employees will be a great asset to Council and the broader community.

Smart Meters

The Department of Energy and Mining has advised that the smart electricity meters are expected to arrive in Adelaide at the end of June. The meters are expected to be installed by Cowell Electric in June, July and August. In relation to billing, all customers will receive two electricity bills in September. One bill will cover the period from June 2021 to the date that the old meter was removed. The second bill will cover the period from the date the new meter was installed to the first week in September. This will not affect the amount that you otherwise would have paid had the meters not been changed over. Further information about the implementation of smart meters will be provided in the next newsletter and on Council's website and facebook page. Information about smart meters is also available at the Council office.

Cooper Pedy Quiet Achievers

Thank you to Jo and Terry for their contribution to our community. They both work tirelessly caring for injured or abandoned joey's, and if that isn't enough, they are also our wildlife rescue crew! Jo and Terry are active volunteers for the Cooper Pedy Speedway!

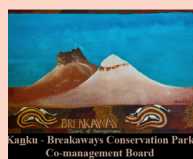
Thank you Cooper Pedy RSL for organising a comprehensive series of ceremonies and events to help the town remember those who made the supreme sacrifice in war and to recognise those who served their country.

Alcohol Management

Cooper Pedy has a long history of attempting to put in place various plans to manage the supply and impacts of alcohol within the town. It needs to be recognised that this is an extremely sensitive topic for residents and service providers, and therefore it has been difficult to come to consensus as to how to move forward with workable plans.

The last attempt at an overall strategy and plan was *A Dry Change: Cooper Pedy Alcohol Strategy and Dry Area Review*, which was completed in 2013.

Dini Soulio, Commissioner for Consumer and Business Services, and Zoe Thomas, Assistant Director for Licensing held conversations in Cooper Pedy across 4-5 May 2021. Conversations were held with District Council, SAPOL and licensees. Initial conversations were also held with some community groups and services.



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

Council has a role to play in advocating for the needs of Cooper Pedy. Council will write to Dini Soulio, Commissioner for Consumer and Business Services, Dr Chris McGowan, Chief Executive, SA Department for Health and Wellbeing and Grant Stevens, Commissioner, SA Police in relation to these matters.

Clean Up Cooper Pedy

The next clean-up will be on Sunday 27 June. We will kick off from Council car-park at 11:00 am. Please bring your gloves and Council will provide garbage bags.

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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Council Budget Review

Council undertook a review of its 2020/21 budget using financial results up to 30 April 2021. This review is the last before the end of the year.

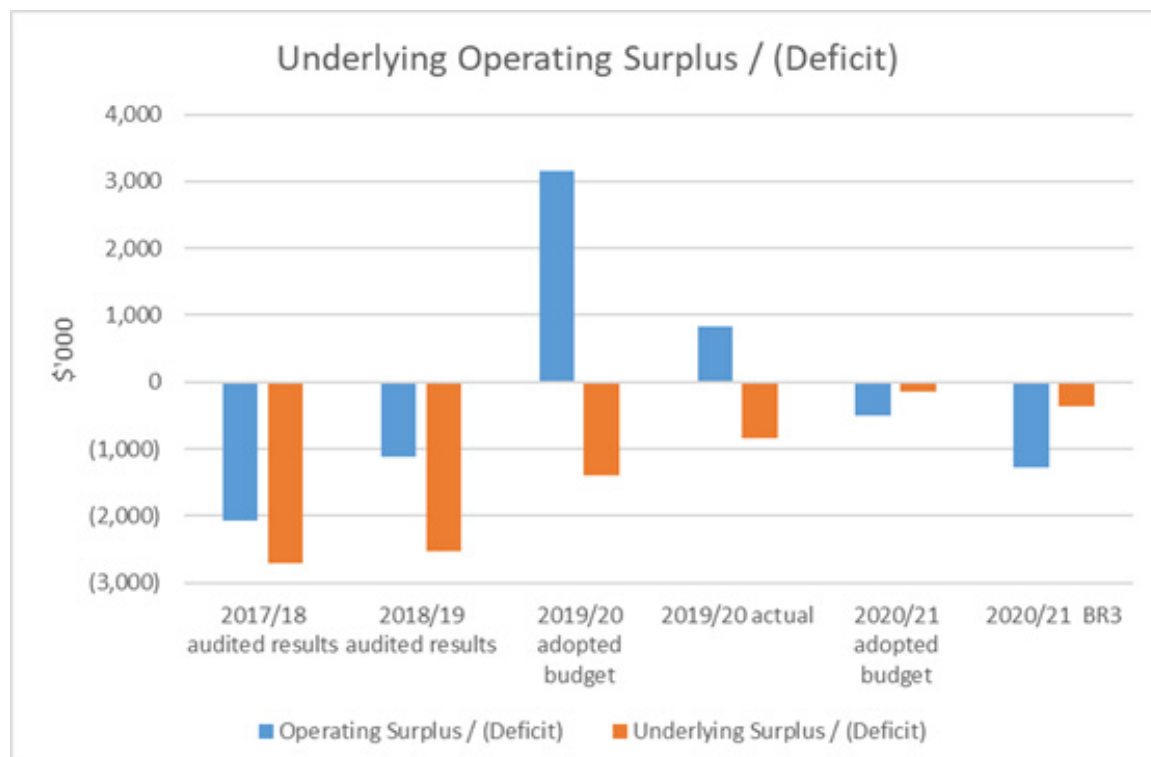
A number of changes to the budget were approved by Council as a result of the review.

2020/21 has been a difficult year to manage Council's budget due the impact of COVID19. Council operates several commercial activities, and these have been badly affected. Council has used its best endeavours, and estimates that water and electricity income will be about 20% lower than budgeted for. Fortunately, the State Government underwrites the financial performance of the electricity operations and so the reduction in electricity income does not impact on Council's finances. However, Council expects to lose about \$230k in water income in 2020/21.

The reduction in income will be partially offset by lower expenses. Employee costs continue to be lower than expected, largely due to vacant positions. Payments for materials and contractors are lower. Some projects have not been able to be completed and there were savings in electricity costs.

Since adoption of the 2020/21 budget, the underlying deficit has increased by \$220k to a forecast result of \$367k. Council's expenditure on the renewal of its assets decreased even further to 20% of what it should be for the year. This is because Council has to spend all of its available cash on maintaining services and can only spend a little on renewing existing assets.

Full details of the budget review can be found in the Council Minutes for the meeting held on 25 May 2021. Council's financial position has been improving over the past years as the graph shows.





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Great Kanku-Breakaways Marathon





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National Volunteer's Week 17 – 23 May 2021

Thank you Volunteers!

Almost 100 Coober Pedy volunteers came together at the Croatian Club and shared a meal prepared by CK Confectionaire Bakery on Thursday 20 May.

Tim Jackson, Council Administrator, thanked everyone for the work they do every year. "30% of Australians volunteer on a regular basis and put in millions of productive hours a year", said Tim.

On the night, our volunteers included representatives from Dusty Radio, Animals Second Chance, the Greek Club, Mines Rescue, Italian Club, Croatian Club, Speedway, Race Club, Golf Club, Red Cross, Labyrinth Committee, Gliding Club,

CFS, RSL, Drive-In, Karate Club, Historical Society, Coober Pedy Clean-Up Team, United Club and many more. These locals have committed to make Coober Pedy a more positive and functional town in all that they do. They fill in the gaps across the community with their valuable contribution. We all say thank you. You make Coober Pedy a better place!

You may be interested to know that the contribution of volunteers to Australia's economy is larger than the national mining sector!

CooberPedy clubs and organisations can always use new volunteers. If you are interested, watch the community notice boards and Council bulletins for details. With a small population we rely on our vibrant, energetic and giving residents. It's a great way to make friends and give back to our remarkable town.





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Peak Iron Mines International Women's Day 2021

After a year full of challenges, isolation and financial hardship, this outing gave over 130 of our local ladies an opportunity to frock up and have a special lunch, relax, laugh and celebrate our remarkable community resilience at the Croatian Club on Saturday 1 May at 11:30 am.

Christine Lennon welcomed the ladies to this fabulous event, and Julie Hammermeister talked about the theme this year, "Choose to Challenge".

We were blessed with the beautiful and most talented Diona Antonas from Peak Iron Mines, our sponsor for this amazing event, who talked about Peak Iron Mines position in our community and the challenges women can face working in a male dominant field. Diona shared that her experience with her employer, Peak Iron Mines, has been very positive in relation to her position in a traditionally male dominated industry.

May 1 every year is a National Day to remember those who have lost their lives as a result of domestic and family violence.

Candles were lit and a minute's silence held to remember those who have lost their lives as a result of domestic violence. Carrie Adamo talked about local women who had lost their lives at the hands of Domestic Violence. There was a memory table with photographs of women who had suffered through DV, many losing their

lives.

The dress code for our event was Sustainability - from the back of the wardrobe.

Our models were very entertaining as they strutted their stuff on the red carpet! Our gorgeous girls had chosen something from Vinnies to model or something from their own wardrobe!

CK Confectionnaire prepared and delivered a delicious lunch and the most sumptuous cake ever!

Bingo was a big hit, with many women asking if we could hold Bingo once a fortnight!

As a result of the Bingo being such a hit on this day, Peak Iron Mines is going to sponsor regular Bingo events.

Watch this space! "Peak Iron Ladies Bingo".



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Seniors Card

Are you aware of the Senior Card that offers incentives, discounts and special offers that can save you time and money?

Senior Cards are available to South Australian residents 60 years or older. You are able to work up to 20 hours a week to be eligible.

You can apply online or complete an application form at your local library. Senior Card Discount Directories are available at the Council office or you can go online to www.sa.gov.au/seniorscard.

For further information on the Senior Card and other supports that may be available to improve your financial management, contact Financial Inclusion Worker Carrie Adamo, from the Low Income Support Program at Uniting Country SA. Phone 0438 577 250.

Children's Activities at The Kanku-Breakaways Marathon



Mini Gems Eat a lot of Cake!!!

The months of April and May have been a rollercoaster of emotions for the Mini Gems Centre. We have celebrated Easter, Mother's Day, 1st birthdays and Earth Day. We have participated in Sorry Day activities and National Simultaneous Storytime where we joined others via the internet from all around Australia to watch a reading of the book 'Give Me Some Space', written by Philip Bunting. It was read by NASA Astronaut, Shannon Walker from the International Space Station.

We also had a fantastic time supporting Raksha at the Kanku-Breakaways Marathon, providing face and hand

painting, bath bomb, stress ball and slime making, colouring in and other paper based activities. The children also enjoyed sporting challenges and magna tile building with their carers throughout the day.

Sadly we had to say goodbye to some really amazing children and their families as they leave Cooper Pedy for the next season in their lives. These departures have led to the opportunity for new friends to join us in Early Years Education and we would like to invite anyone with children aged between 6 weeks and 4 years.

