



# District Council of Cooper Pedy Newsletter

*Welcome to the Opal Capital of the World*

March 2021

## Message from the Administrator

"Communities would not be anywhere near as strong if it was not for our volunteers. We need to take every opportunity to recognise them. A number of opportunities to do this will present themselves over coming months.

The State Government's annual recognition of volunteers is happening now. Detail have been disseminated by the Council. Please take this opportunity to nominate someone you see doing great voluntary work in our community. The Council recognises citizens making a significant contribution to Cooper Pedy through its Australia Day Awards. In the past this has been done once a year. In future we will recognise people throughout the year.

Those people will be then be eligible for the annual awards recognised on Australia Day. Details will be provided shortly.

Can I, on behalf of the citizens, thank the group of volunteers who gave their time recently to clean up the town - see elsewhere in this newsletter. This will become a regular thing. Please consider getting involved.

I recently was able to confer citizenship on seven citizens of Cooper Pedy. This is a wonderful

experience for all involved and on behalf of all Australian I welcome them as Australian citizens - see elsewhere in this newsletter.

It is important that the State Government and the Council work together if outcomes for the community are to improve. This currently happens with the library and the swimming pool. These arrangements are currently scheduled for review. Recently, very fruitful discussions was held with representatives of the Education Department regarding these two services. The Council took the opportunity to introduce into the discussion the responsibility for the future provision of child care. Currently, the Council provides these service from the school site. It is imperative that these three

### Child and Parenting Support Programs

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

For 0 - 5 year olds and their paretns/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 0427264969 for more information.

services continue and that was the view of the meeting. Further details will be provided as they become clearer.

Your sincerely

Tim Jackson, Administrator  
0417 016 161

TJackson@cpcouncil.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



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## Australian Citizenship Ceremony

A citizenship ceremony is where you make the Australian citizenship pledge. For most 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 7 people on Friday 19 March, at 10:00 am.

Our happy participants enjoyed meat pies and lamington cake for morning tea



## Family Fun Day

On Saturday 13th March Mini Gems Children's Centre held a Family Fun Day which was well attended by local families.

The time flew as children, their carers and our wonderful CaPs program facilitator, volunteers and educators ran little musicians, indoor and outdoor activities, face painting, a BBQ lunch and games for all.

The feedback from families was really positive and encouraging, leading to some of our longest standing educators reminiscing about the amazing family dinners and get togethers held in the past which mirrored the same popularity.

We are certainly looking forward to holding more events like this in the future.







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## Clean Up Australia Day 2021

On Saturday 6 March, 8:30 am, 16 people "Stepped up to Clean up" our dusty community! It was great to see a large group of willing, energetic and happy people keen to participate in our local event!

It was a warm day and the flies were driving us crazy but we kept going until 11:30 am. We covered a lot of ground and the clean-up was very noticeable, especially on Italian Club Road, where Salome Lorente and Nicko Farantouris worked tirelessly to make a difference to that neighborhood! Jayde, Archer and Rory Grava spent two hours cleaning up the yard which houses the laundromat, car-wash facility and Greyhound Terminal. That place looked fantastic when they'd finished!

Karen Jones, who is no stranger to town clean up and often seen picking up recyclable items and rubbish, spent several hours at the playground, making it safe for families.

Ralph & Carrie Adamo spent several hours cleaning up the town orchard.

Janet Walton volunteered to clean up the "Blower" parking bay on the Stuart Highway and left it looking much more presentable and ready for the next visitors!

Father Paul cleaned up the grounds of the Coober Pedy Medical Centre, his efforts made a vast improvement!

Kim Pringuer, Nicole Reynolds and I cleaned up the front of Council and continued down Hutchison street, we couldn't believe the difference the street looked after a few hour's work.

Dean Miller was kept busy collecting garbage and doing tip runs. He also kept the volunteers hydrated and energized with cold water and a snack or two!

Council intend to be the driving force to hold a "Clean up Coober Pedy" once a month, the next one was planned for Sunday 28 March, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. We met at Council car-park. We provided garbage bags, gloves and water. Council have made a suggestion that every business participates by clearing their public space of waste matter. Council have already had plenty of interest from the community to come on board with our monthly clean-ups. What a difference this will make to our beautiful town!

Please contact Julie Hammermeister at Council on 8672 4601 for any queries you may have.





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## Water Operations

Council will soon be inviting expressions of interest from the private sector to own, operate and invest in Council's water operations. The ultimate objective is to secure the investment needed to renew the assets and ultimately lower the cost of water to Coober Pedy consumers. The EOI process will identify a shortlist of companies that will be selected to participate in a comprehensive tender. Final touches are being made to the EOI document, and we expect to go to market by the end of the month. If a tender process fails to lower water prices, it is Council's expectation that the Government step in to provide relief in the form of a subsidy similar to the Remote Area Energy Subsidy. Council believes that it is grossly unfair for Coober Pedy water consumers to pay three times that of Adelaide for a basic necessity of life.

## Water Quality & Supply

Some citizens have expressed concern from time to time about the quality of the potable water that Council produces. Water quality standards are set by the Essential Services Commission and the Department of Health, and Council is required to meet the following targets:

### 1. **E.coli levels near Zero.**

Council achieves zero E.coli levels by dosing with very low concentrations of chlorine in the form of hypochlorite. Tests are undertaken independently of Council and produce a zero E.coli count on most occasions.

### 2. **Low Salinity**

Most of the salt and metals have been removed by chemical precipitation, filtration and reverse osmosis. Salinity levels range from 150 to 320 parts per million which in most cases is lower than Adelaide water which can exceed 700 parts per million.

### 3. **Acidity or Alkalinity**

Council aims to ensure that the Ph. level is near neutral. Testing is carried out three times daily to ensure that this is achieved.

### 4. **Turbidity**

Turbidity relates to the discolouration of water due to the entry of soil or residual iron in the distribution network. Turbidity can occur as a result of 'hammering' when a pipe fails, or during repair of a pipe, where a small amount of soil enters the pipe during repair. Every effort is made to avoid the entry of soil during repairs.

Bleed points are used, where installed, to remove discoloured water from the network. Residents are encouraged to report discolouration so that action can be taken.

## Smart Electricity Meters

Council has agreed to the introduction of smart electricity meters.

## Old South Road Review

Council has requested the State Government close Old South Road from the Stuart Highway to Council's southern boundary to enable this area to be available for opal mining. Closure of the road will be subject to an alternative

access road being made for adjoining land owners and other road users. Plans showing the proposed new road is available at the Council office.

## Road Surveying

Council recently resolved to request the State Government to acknowledge the significant mismatch between road reserves and actual roads. The problem was created when Coober Pedy was surveyed by the Surveyor General in the late 1960s. This has had the following negative consequences:

1. An inability to physically construct roads on the designated road reserve;

2. The need to construct many culverts if the roads are to be reconstructed on the road reserve;

3. Many of Council's roads traverse private property and Crown land.

4. Emergency services find it difficult to locate properties quickly, thus presenting a risk to life and property, because the rural numbering system cannot be practically implemented and there is a mismatch between digital maps and the constructed roads.

5. Tourists are often confused, and contact with the host is compromised because of poor mobile phone coverage in outlying areas.

6. Australia Post may find it difficult to match property and lot numbers.

7. Economic development and land improvements are impeded by poor lot layout and legal access to properties being





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over crown land and not via the legal road reserve.

Council has estimated that it will cost about \$450,000 to rectify the situation. Letters of support are currently being sought to strengthen Council's case.

## Anti-Social Behaviour

Council recently initiated a series of meetings with traders, funded agencies and SAPOL to discuss solutions to recent anti-social behaviour in the town. At a recent Council meeting, the Commission for Liquor Licensing, Gambling and Dini Soulio made himself available to speak to the community regarding the issue. The result of these meetings was an acknowledgment by all parties that more needs to be done by everyone. Council will convene a meeting in Cooper Pedy with the Commissioner to review the Liquor Accord. An invitation will be sent to relevant organisations in coming weeks.

## Sale of Properties

The sale of properties for unpaid rates is expected to occur in late April. Under the Local Government Act, if rates remain unpaid for more than three years, Council is able to sell the land to recover the rates, with the balance being returned to the owner. The sale will include 14 houses, 4 dugouts, 1 unfinished dugout, and 18 parcels of vacant land. The sale will be by public auction and there will be no reserve. The list of properties is available on Council's website. Properties may be pulled from

sale if the owner pays all of the outstanding rates and fees before auction day.

## Budget Review

At the last Council meeting, Council considered the second budget review for the financial year. Council would have returned to an underlying surplus for the first time in many years but for one notable exception – income from water sales is expected to be down by about \$400,000. This is mainly due to the impact of low tourist numbers. As a result, Council continues to defer all non-critical capital expenditure in an effort to preserve cash. Offsetting some of this loss of income is an expected increase in private works profits. The \$400k reduction in water income is not matched by an equivalent drop in expenditure because a significant portion of water expenditure is fixed and does not related to the volume of water produced.

## Education Partnerships

The Administrator and CEO recently met with the Regional Director of the Education Department to discuss Mini Gems Children's Centre, the community swimming pool, and the community library. All of these assets are on school land. Despite rumours to the contrary circulating around, Council is wholly committed to funding its fair share of the costs of operating all of these services. The contract between Council and the Department

for the operation of the pool expires in June, and preliminary work has commenced prior to negotiating the contract. The option of Mini Gems being owned and operated by the Education Department was discussed. Further discussions between Council and the Department will take place in relation to all three services. Further information will be given to the community in future editions of this newsletter.



## Cooper Pedy Regional Times

I again write to Margaret asking her to correct a misleading article that would not have occurred if she had asked a few questions of us.

The "independent body" is SA Water. They will not be a tenderer. The SA Water report will be released shortly in a redacted form - its costings for a new system will be removed for obvious reasons. The redacted report will be provided to tenderers to assist them with their tenders.

Perhaps you will be humble enough to admit your mistakes! Maybe in print!

Because you won't ask - the system is not being sold and a tender will only be let if Adelaide prices are achieved.

Tim



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## Kids get running! Free clinic.

The Kanku-Breakaways team is hosting a free running clinic for kids these school holidays.

They are bringing super trail running legend and LaSportiva athlete, Mick Keyte to Coober Pedy for a weekend of serious running fun for kids. Mick is an accredited coach and serious advocate of running fun!

Kids of all ages and levels will be put through their paces with a mix of running, exercises and novelty games. There will be a lot of laughter, and some great tips for kids who are more serious about getting faster.

To help kids prepare for one of the Kanku-Breakaways Marathon events in May, they will be given a simple training plan to follow after the clinic

The running community, local, and other businesses, have generously donated items for a running kit. All kids who attend will be given goodies like LaSportiva sunglasses and water bottles, hats, locklaces, sports-watches, and more.

The clinic is designed for maximum smile appeal. Be warned: the organisers are not to blame if your kids start dragging you out on training runs before the marathon! Only 30 spots are available.

Register your child here:

<https://www.greatkanku-breakawaysmarathon.com.au/kids-running-clinic>

Details:

Saturday 10 & Sunday 11 April 2021

9am-11am

Day 1: Oz Minerals Town Oval

Day 2: Coober Pedy Golf Course

## Kanku-Breakaways Conservation Park

Permits are available at Council and Underground Books.

\$10 per vehicle or \$8 concession.

Local residents do not require a permit.



UCSA on Paxton Road have the Financial Inclusion Service who can support people on low income with small micro loans that are interest free. You can make an appointment to see Carrie Adamo on 0438577250 Tuesdays to Thursday.

**FREE**

# RUN FOR FUN!

## Kids running clinic with Mick Keyte

Dust off your running shoes and join us for two great mornings of running fun with seriously fast runner, LaSportiva athlete and awesome running coach, Mick Keyte.

We'll teach you how to run your best and have some crazy fun at the same time.

Our clinic is **FREE** and suitable for kids of all abilities and ages. Parents are welcome to join in.

So if you love to run and have fun, we want you!

**10-11 April 2021**  
**9AM - 11AM**  
**Meet at Coober Pedy Town Oval**

Find out more and register here:

[WWW.GREATKANKU-BREAKAWAYSMARATHON.COM.AU/KIDS-RUNNING-CLINIC](http://WWW.GREATKANKU-BREAKAWAYSMARATHON.COM.AU/KIDS-RUNNING-CLINIC)





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## YOU'RE AMAZING!

Hayden Lewis, 11 years of age has been helping Dawn Jones by checking the dogs for sores and ticks. He feeds them, plays with them and keeps an eye on their general well-being! Keep up the good work Hayden!



Every Month we will be celebrating Cooper Pedy's quiet achievers. If you would like to nominate a quiet achiever please call into Council and speak with Julie.



## Kanku-Breakaways Marathon and Fun Run

The annual marathon event is fast approaching on 15 May 2021. You can run, walk or bike your way through the spectacular Kanku-Breakaways; 42.2km, 21.1km, 10km or 5km. Plus there is a special 2.3km fun run for kids under 12 (timed but non-competitive).

This year's t-shirts and event promotional materials have been designed by local artist Natalie Austin. The shirts have been sponsored by AMYAC, and will be provided free to all entrants under 18 years of age and volunteers at the event.

Thanks to sponsorship provided by runners from all over the place, local juniors under 16 are able to enter events either free or at a discounted rate.

There are newly-designed finishers' medals and trophies for all distances. And once again, teams of four will fight for line honours in the 10km team event. Will the SES retain the trophy, or will someone else win the crown?

Even if you're not a runner, come for a stroll in the park and watch the action unfold.

Complimentary shuttle buses will run on race day between Cooper Pedy and the Kanku-Breakaways Conservation Park. Food and stalls, including a free reconciliation bbq, will be available at the lookout area.

Find out more: [greatkankubreakawayssmarathon.com.au](http://greatkankubreakawayssmarathon.com.au)







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## Harmony Day

This year Harmony Week was celebrated from 15 – 21 March. Harmony Week is an opportunity for Australians to celebrate Australia as a successful multicultural country – a model based on integration and social cohesion. Over the years, Harmony Week has celebrated Australia's cultural diversity supporting values of inclusion, respect and a sense of belonging. Since 1999, more than 80,000 Harmony Week events have been held across Australia with celebrations initiated and strongly supported by: schools, sporting and community groups, local government, places of worship, businesses and other government agencies. Orange is the colour chosen to represent Harmony Day. Traditionally, orange signifies social communication and meaningful conversations.

This year Council staff celebrated being proud to live in our beautiful multicultural town, Coober Pedy! All participating staff brought a favourite dish or something specific to their culture to share for lunch!





OPAL CAPITAL  
**COOPER PEDY**  
GET OUTBACK... GET UNDERGROUND

## 31<sup>st</sup> March - 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021

### AUSTRALIAN OPAL 2020 VISION 10<sup>TH</sup> 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 & Paelentology.

Register online @ [www.opalsymposium.org](http://www.opalsymposium.org)

### Thurs Night 1<sup>st</sup> April

Exclusive Showing  
Symposium Attendees Only

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

### Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> & Sun 4<sup>th</sup> April

COOPER PEDY  
GEM TRADE SHOW

Hosted by The Croatian Club - Flinders St  
Contact Paul Reynolds Ph 0418 815 396

### Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> & Sun 4<sup>th</sup> April

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

### Sun 4<sup>th</sup> April

Coober Pedy Night Speedway  
Look for further details on facebook



