



**Saturday 19 April
2014 - 1pm - 10pm
www.opalfestival.com.au**

Media Release

24 February 2014

This Easter will see the return of the Cooper Pedy Opal Festival, an exciting day of fun and entertainment for every age group! Planning for the Opal Festival is well underway. This year once again promises to be a great fun filled family day. The Opal Festival Ball, street parade, novelty events, sideshow alley and conclusion of the first annual Queen of the Desert Festival will all be features of the weekend.

The Cooper Pedy Opal Festival will launch this year's prosperous opal mining season as well as celebrate Cooper Pedy and outback South Australia's rich opal heritage.

Starting at 1pm, the ever popular street parade will work its way from Cooper Pedy's unique main street to OZ Minerals oval and be joined by the first annual Queen of the Desert Festival which starts in Marree on Tuesday 15 April. The oval will feature entertainment for the whole family, including live music, novelty events for all, local business stalls, food & beverage marquees, and a bigger sideshow alley than ever before. The festival will continue into the night with Barossa cover band the Barking Ants performing live on stage and a fireworks spectacular that will go off with a bang.

Council Event Officer, Clair Alford, will be coordinating this years Festival along with valuable assistance from Chevahn Hoad. On the day volunteers are needed to help out with various aspects of the festival so please contact Clair if you are available to provide assistance.

Clair can be contacted via:

T (08) 8672 4624

M 0448 811 799

E calford@cpcouncil.sa.gov.au

For all events details please visit: opalfestival.com.au

Like us on  [facebook.com/CooperPedyOpalFestival](https://www.facebook.com/CooperPedyOpalFestival)



Photos courtesy of Peter Rowe

The GREAT Breakaways' Bolt



District Council of Coober Pedy

The GREAT Breakaways' Bolt Committee and the District Council of Coober Pedy are inviting Coober Pedy Community Groups or Causes to apply for the proceeds raised from The GREAT Breakaways' Bolt in 2014.

Please be aware that the proceeds are yet to be raised and the total amount is unknown until after the event has taken place on Saturday 31 May 2014. Please be aware that the proceeds raised will be donated to one Community Group or Cause and not divided among several.

All applications must be written:

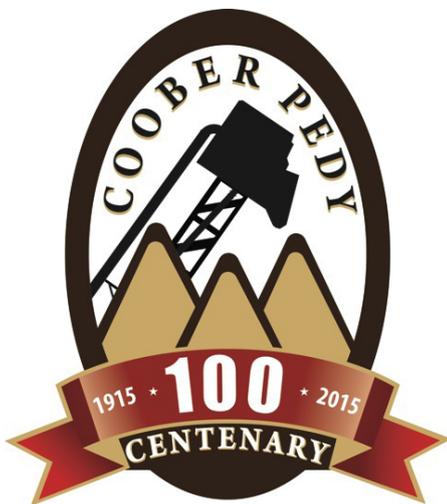
- Addressed to The GREAT Breakaways' Bolt Committee
- Outline what the money raised will be used for within the Community Group or Cause
- Outline how the use of the proceeds will benefit the local community
- Include contact details (postal address, phone number and email address) of Chairperson / President and Secretary

Completed applications are to be forwarded to:

Clair Alford, District Council of Coober Pedy
PO Box 425, Coober Pedy SA 5723

Or via email: calford@cpcouncil.sa.gov.au and must be received by close of business on **Friday 25 April 2014**.

Please direct any enquiries to Clair Alford at the District Council of Coober Pedy during business hours on 08 8672 4624 or via the email listed above.



A Centenary Committee has been formed to plan for the upcoming centenary of Coober Pedy.

Community members are encouraged to contribute ideas by contacting Clair Alford at the Council during business hours on (08) 8672 4624.

A little history about our town: In 1915, the New Colorado Gold Prospecting Syndicate, comprising Mr Jim Hutchison, his 14 year old son William, Mr Winch and Mr McKenzie were unsuccessfully prospecting for gold in outback South Australia. The young lad, Willie had been left at camp to look after supplies but wandered off in search of water. There was a degree of apprehension among the men when Willie failed to return by dusk. A short time later he strode into camp with a grin on his face. Over his shoulder was slung a sugar bag full of opal. This was a very fortuitous find for the young William - not only did he come across opal, but he also discovered something equally as precious, a supply of fresh water. This discovery was made on 1 February 1915 – 8 days later, the group pegged the first opal claim. The catalyst for Coober Pedy's existence had been discovered. Word of the find spread quickly and by the middle of 1916 miners had moved to the area.

Coober Pedy has since become one of the largest suppliers of gem quality opals to the world, boasting the title "Opal Capital of the World". The 100th anniversary of Coober Pedy's existence is a credit to the resilience of the Coober Pedy people. Come and celebrate our centenary!

Go to www.cooberpedy.sa.gov.au/centenary2015 for up-to-date information of planned activities and events.