



# Community Newsletter

April/May 2022

[www.cooperpedy.sa.gov.au](http://www.cooperpedy.sa.gov.au)

District Council  
of Cooper Pedy

welcome to the opal capital of the world



## From the Administrator

### Childcare

We have heard some gossip around the traps that the Council operated childcare centre will close. No such decision has been made. Discussions are however occurring with the State Government regarding alternative ways of delivering early childhood learning services in Cooper Pedy.

The Council's position is that it will not fund the operating shortfall of the centre beyond 31 December this year unless citizens decide at a poll to increase rates to fund the shortfall.

### Cooper Pedy Together

The *Cooper Pedy Together* process is about getting everyone to work together to make Cooper Pedy a better place.

This is a unique and bold experiment in community governance. While initiated and funded by the Council it is vital that it is led by the town's citizens. It will be part of the overall governance arrangements for Cooper Pedy in the future – refer to Future Municipal Governance item on this page.

On behalf of the Cooper Pedy community, I sincerely thank the facilitation group for its work to date. It is a big job. Further information is available elsewhere in this newsletter.

### COVID

On behalf of the citizens of Cooper Pedy, we extend a big thank you to all our health workers who continue to work tirelessly under very difficult circumstances to keep us safe and well.

### Dialysis

Cooper Pedy has no dialysis service and residents who need this service are forced to move where they can access such a service. The nearest services are in Port Augusta and the APY Lands.

Purple House is a not-for-profit non-government provider of dialysis services in remote Australia. Members of our community, the Council and others have been endeavouring to establish such a service in Cooper Pedy for a number of years. Things are now well advanced and we should see work start later in the year on the construction of the facility.

### Future municipal governance

Now that we are clear about who the State Government is we can get on with finalising the future governance arrangements for the Council.

Council elections in South Australia are scheduled for November 2022. It is unlikely they will be held in Cooper Pedy, however this is a decision for the new State Government. My opinion is that a citizen poll should be conducted to see whether the town wants an elected Council. As I have said before, I am not available if the town votes to retain an Administrator.

A second aspect of this issue is whether the Council should establish a separate legal entity to undertake its commercial activities such as electricity, water, airport, childcare and private works. This has been discussed often at Council meetings. The main advantage is that it would be overseen by appropriately experienced and skilled people. This would only be required if the State Government does not acquire the Council's electricity and water businesses (refer other parts of my article.)

The future municipal governance arrangement will be part of an overall community governance arrangement for the town (refer to the item on *Cooper Pedy Together* on page 8.)

### Great Kanku-Breakaways marathon

The marathon was held on Saturday 21 May. There were a number of other running and walking events held in association with the marathon. The marathon is one of only a few outback marathons in Australia.

Thank you to the Traditional Owners, sponsors, organisers, volunteers and participants. →

## → Housing insurance

The Council has become aware that new owners of residential properties in Coober Pedy are experiencing significant difficulties in getting property insurance. Either cover is not available or is extremely expensive.

While not normally in the business of spruiking individual businesses, MyState, which is a Tasmanian based financial institution, has been identified as a provider of cover at a very competitive rate.

## National Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week is an annual celebration of the contribution of volunteers to Australian society. It provides an opportunity to say thanks. It was celebrated from 16 to 22 May. The Council will host an event later in the year to say thanks to our volunteers.

## Opal Festival

The Festival was held from 17 to 19 June. It is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and reflect on what is good about living and working in Coober Pedy.

Opal mining is an essential part of our community so it is extremely pleasing to see the return of the Opal Miners Hall of Fame to the Festival program in 2022.

Thank you to the voluntary organisers for doing what you do. Thank you also to the sponsors, of which there is a significant number. The Council itself makes a \$25k contribution to the event.

## Q&A

Just a reminder that you can pose questions to the Council on any subject within its sphere of responsibility by either coming along to the Council meeting on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7pm or by submitting your questions in writing.

## State election

Many of you exercised your democratic right to vote in the recent State election. As you would be aware, citizens elected an ALP State Government. In the lower house seat of Giles, Eddie Hughes was re-elected. Congratulations Eddie! We look forward to working with you and your Government.

For the last four years Coober Pedy has not had the luxury of working with a lower house State member who is part of the Government. This has now changed!

## Tourism awards

This year the Council nominated Coober Pedy for the 2022 Top Tourism Town Award. The awards were organised by the Tourism Industry Council of South Australia. Unfortunately, we were not successful. Having said that, the quality of our expression of interest and the campaign to garner community support should be acknowledged.

## Water equity and security

The State Election result has to some degree caused greater uncertainty in relation to finding a resolution to this issue.

The previous Government's position was that that the Council should seek private sector investment in the water system. Once this process established the cost of potable water, the Government would then consider the need for a subsidy. It rejected the Council's proposal for an interim subsidy from the State Government to ensure water was available at Adelaide prices. You might recall this was supported by a petition arranged by the Council which was tabled in the Parliament by Eddie Hughes. The Council is currently in the process of endeavouring to find a private sector partner.

While the new State Government does not have a formal position on the future of water in Coober Pedy, discussions have occurred which involve the State Government becoming responsible for electricity and water. If this was the case, this would ensure price parity with Adelaide. The Council would only contemplate this if it fairly compensate for its assets and the State Government commits to significant investment in the water infrastructure.

If the private sector investment or State Government purchase are not able to be arranged, the State Government will need to guarantee a loan to enable the Council to make the necessary investment.

Until next time.

**Tim Jackson, Administrator, 0417 016 161**

## White goods



All electrical items are to be taken to the Dump as they are no longer accepted at the Works Depot. The electrical items can be taken to the Dump free of charge as long as no other rubbish is dumped at the same time.

**For more information, contact the Works Department on 08 8672 4626.**

# The Great Kanku-Breakaways marathon

The Great Kanku-Breakaways Marathon event took place on 21 May. Record levels of participation and sponsorship made the event an outstanding success.

Event Co-ordinator Brian Haddy was especially pleased with the turnout of nearly 150 runners and walkers and the wonderful volunteer support provided by individuals including CFS representatives.

Peak Iron Mines was welcomed as principal event partner. AMYAC, OZ Minerals and Complete Personnel continued their essential sponsorship support for the event.

On the day, Qube provided a regular bus shuttle service to the Breakaways and Sodexo contributed a feast of salads, protein balls and cake for event entrants and volunteers.

Maureen Williams designed the event shirts this year and was on hand to present trophies to all the winners, many of whom received a framed copy of her artwork. The male and female winners of the marathon received an embossed wooden trophy and magnificent opal watches donated by Umoona Opal Mine and Museum.

Mick Keyte won the marathon event for the second year in a row in a time of 3:11:01 and Kay Nakamura was the first female in a time of 4:10:29. In the half marathon Hayden Hands won in a time of 1:22:28 and Sharlotte Newsham was first female in a time of 1:58:00.

The 10km winners were Lucas Ljubicic (47:23) and Aoife McFadden (1:03:09) and the 5km winners were Josiah Park (23:21) and Shannon Scarr (27:24).

The 2.5km mini bolt was won by Noah Noble in 12:15 (just ahead of Aaron Bourke in 12:16) with Tiannah Ikonomopoulos being the first female in 17:32.

Cyclists competed over both 10km and 36km courses with Noah Noble making it 2 from 2 by winning the 10km in a blanket finish with Thomas Troisi, Leah Troisi and Ellie Noble all crossing the line together with Noah.

Chris Cooke and Ariane Montminy-Roberge prevailed in the 36km, the longest bike event ever offered in the Breakaways.

A huge thanks to all of the volunteers, organisations and staff involved in the setup, on the day and after the event. We could not do it without you!

Visit [www.greatkanku-breakawaysmarathon.com.au](http://www.greatkanku-breakawaysmarathon.com.au) to find all the race results, where competitors can also download their participation certificate with their times and placings.

Organisers hope the 2023 event, tentatively scheduled for the weekend of 20 and 21 May 2023, will attract even more participants to further showcase the magnificent Kanku-Breakaways Conservation Park and to promote and celebrate the benefits of physical activity.



# The Great Kanku-Breakaways marathon



# The Great Kanku-Breakaways marathon



# International Women's Day 2022

## 'Break the bias'

On Sunday 1 May the women of Coober Pedy came together to celebrate International Women's Day. This year's message was 'break the bias' with a focus on domestic violence.

Domestic Violence Remembrance Day is part of Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month in May. Its purpose is to raise community awareness of the social and personal impacts of domestic and family violence as well as the support available to those affected by violence.

Maria Fantasia, Stakeholder Manager employed by Peak Iron Mines, opened the day with a presentation about her own personal experiences with domestic violence.

This year's event saw a fun-filled day with 10 local ladies participating in a fashion parade with clothes provided by Zara Kyrzaliotis of Chique Boutique. Bingo was big hit with prizes donated by local businesses. The talented Tamasin McKenzie and Brilyanz Mance entertained the crowd with musical performances.

Events like International Women's Day aren't possible without community volunteers and support from local businesses. A big thank you to the following people for their contribution: Major Sponsor – Peak Iron Mines, CK Confectionaries, Dusty Radio's Melissa Brave, Jacqui Boland (2022 Citizen of the Year), Lia Pantelis, Elsie Carboni, OZ Minerals, Umoona Childcare Centre, Chique Boutique, Outback Bar & Grill, Uniting Country SA, Old Timer's Mine, Big Winch, Black Rhino Group, Carter's Retail IGA, Cellarbrations, JAM'D Opals, Lize Lee Hairdressing, Roz, Karen Jones, and The 'Sisters' committee members.



# Council partners with Bikes Palya and Complete Personnel to build BMX pump track



**Bicycle SA (BSA) is the peak body for recreational and commuter cycling in South Australia. Bikes Palya is a program of BSA targeting kids and communities in or near the APY Lands.**

There's something awesome about the thrill and joy kids get riding bikes in the outback! Bikes Palya translates this excitement of cycling into learning opportunities for youth through programs that reinforce values of pride and responsibility while creating a healthy pastime. In schools where attendance can be low, Bikes Palya aims to drive attendance rates higher and to engage with typically hard to reach youth through the power of the bike!

Bikes Palya visited Coober Pedy from 25 to 29 April 2022 to discuss upcoming programs and activities to occur next year. Whilst in Coober Pedy, Bikes Palya worked in partnership with local service providers to upgrade the existing BMX track facility adjacent to the skate park. Community requests from earlier visits lead to arrangements being made prior to arrival with Council and Complete Personnel to provide labour, machinery, and materials for construction. Initial funding came from Complete Personnel's Remote School Attendance Strategy (RSAS) program and further community support was generously provided by Mark Hoad and Ken Boland through the use of their machinery. However, the in-kind support provided by Council enabled the project to proceed.

School Holiday Program activities recorded 51 participants in 10 sessions over four days and were mainly based at the skate park.

Bike repair and maintenance sessions were conducted next to the playground and a sign design workshop was held in the Youth Shed. Healthy snacks and water were provided throughout the day.

A community meeting to discuss the programs was well attended, by representatives of the school, RSAS, Clontarf Academy, the Coober Pedy Sports and Recreation committee, Coober Pedy Together, parents of children in the community and more. The need for ongoing recreation activities was discussed as was better coordination between stakeholders.

Discussions continued after the meeting ended while Bikes Palya provided parts and taught youth how to fix their own bikes.

The construction of the new BMX track represents a huge community effort. It is hoped that this initiative will inspire service providers to work together more in the future. It demonstrates what can be achieved when all parties collaborate to achieve a collective goal.

The skills transferred to young people through bike repairs and track maintenance workshops, with local support can build the capacity for a positive local cycling culture. Bikes Palya looks forward to being a part of this!

# Coober Pedy Together

*Coober Pedy Together* has reached an important milestone. The Facilitation Group – Jacqui Boland, Sabrina Troisi, Des Roffey, Isabella Jones, Sandy Williams, Julie O’Toole and Nick Troisi – have been meeting regularly to bring together a story and action plan. To do this, they have been working through all the information gathered from the community workshops held since September 2021.

It has also been very pleasing to see many community members feeling comfortable to share their ongoing thoughts and ideas with the Facilitation Group members.

A final draft of the story and action plan is now ready.

We are in the

process of bringing together the whole community to provide feedback and agreement for the next steps. This story and plan share the story of the real Coober Pedy. It makes it clear that Coober Pedy is ready to come together, and to do whatever it needs to do to provide opportunities for all. It positions Coober Pedy as the Far North Regional Hub of South Australia, ready to serve surrounding communities. It is unique and one of a kind. It is the Opal Capital of The World. The story and action plan include proposed big-ticket items, short-term quick wins, and a range of functional conversations.

Dates are being organized for the Facilitation Group to meet with key key personnel about key community concerns including safety, health, and educational pathways, as well as the Premier of South Australia, the Hon Peter Malinauskas MP, and relevant Ministers. The group is also seeking to meet with local businesses and other stakeholders. This story and action plan will be the key conversation starter with all these groups. It is an important document!

The Facilitation Group is also trying to support the community, wherever possible, on things that are of importance to them, such as looking for long-term solutions to the playground and Triangle recreation area.

We have looked for the best quick wins and are now putting plans in place (gaining permissions, gathering resources) to invite the community to two key events. The first, is to invite the community (such as families, groups, individuals) to come together and paint every light pole and rubbish bin from the Stuart Highway all the way down Hutchison Street. The suggestion is to paint to a certain height, celebrating the colours of opal. We are attempting to get things in place and to put on this event as soon as possible. Second, we will invite the community to come together to plant hundreds of native trees and plants in and around the playground and surrounding areas across the Triangle. We are keen for this to happen as soon as possible and are currently in the process of working out the best time to plant. A community bbq will be provided at both events. We hope you agree that both these things will make a huge difference. It’s about making our community, our town, feel loved again. We’ll share details as soon as they are ready.

Finally, we are following a lead to create a physical base for *Coober Pedy Together* and seeing if we can support other community groups in finding a location as well. We will keep sharing as we keep doing. If you have any ideas or thoughts, or want to get in touch with the Facilitation Group about anything, you can email [cooberpedytogether@gmail.com](mailto:cooberpedytogether@gmail.com) or find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/cooberpedytogether](http://www.facebook.com/cooberpedytogether)



District Council  
of Coober Pedy

## Service contact numbers

Administration  
Office  
(08) 8672 4600

Mini Gems  
Children’s 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

