

# ANNUAL REPORT



**2006/2007**



## DISTRICT COUNCIL OF COOBER PEDY

HUTCHISON STREET, COOBER PEDY

PO BOX 425 SA 5723

Phone: (08) 86 724 600 Fax: (08) 86 725 699 Email: [dccp@cpcouncil.sa.gov.au](mailto:dccp@cpcouncil.sa.gov.au)

<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
<b>MAYOR’S REPORT</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>WHAT IS COUNCIL AND WHAT DOES IT DO?</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>FINANCE &amp; ADMINISTRATION REPORT</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>COUNCIL MEETINGS &amp; SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>GENERAL INFORMATION</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>WATER SERVICES DEPARTMENT REPORT</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<b>ELECTRICITY SUPPLY REPORT</b> .....	<b>21</b>
<b>VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE &amp; COMMUNITY POOL</b> .....	<b>24</b>
<b>COMMUNITY DONATIONS AND CENSUS STATISTICS</b> .....	<b>25</b>
<b>ELECTED MEMBERS</b> .....	<b>26</b>
<b>ELECTED MEMBER MEETING ATTENDANCE RECORD</b> .....	<b>27</b>
<b>&amp; SENIOR STAFF</b>	
<b>SELECTED DEPARTMENTAL STATISTICS</b> .....	<b>28</b>

## **MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT**

The Local Government Elections held in November of last year saw me re-elected to the position of Mayor, and four new Councillors elected to Council. Four of the Councillors from the previous Council were also re-elected. The current term of Council is now four years and is shaping up to be an extremely challenging and consuming one for the new Council. I wish to thank the Coober Pedy Community for the support you have given to me, and assure you that I will endeavour to continue to work for the betterment of the community by working on progressing the issues that are important to you.

This year saw Coober Pedy enter a new phase of development. Along with the mining boom that is being experienced around our town, comes a new level of prosperity, along with some very real challenges both for the community and the Council. Oxiana's Prominent Hill Project continues to expand, and early indications reveal a much larger deposit than what was first thought. Coober Pedy has experienced some real benefits from the establishment of Prominent Hill, not the least being the opportunity for employment, the increase in demand for both residential and commercial property within the town, and the opportunity for new businesses to relocate to Coober Pedy.

Council along with its business partner, the Northern Regional Development Board, continue to talk with and offer support to other mining companies exploring in the area. Companies such as Goldstream Mining and Western Plains Resources are both in pre-feasibility and feasibility phases of their operations, and initial



**Mayor Steve Baines**  
(Photo courtesy Coober Pedy Regional Times)

indications are encouraging. The District Council of Coober Pedy will continue to assist and encourage such companies to base their operations in Coober Pedy, therefore maximising the potential benefits to the community.

The Coober Pedy Dry Area, at the request of the District Council of Coober Pedy, has now been extended for three years. During this time the community has been tasked to comply with and progress a number of issues relating to the consumption of alcohol in public places. The majority of this work will be done by the Coober Pedy Senior Officers group, which continues to be a very important and integral part of the future of our town.

This year saw the 5<sup>th</sup> National Opal Symposium held in Coober Pedy. For the first time the Symposium was held in conjunction with the Gem Trade Show and the Coober Pedy Opal Festival. Congratulations must go to the Northern Regional Development Board and the Coober Pedy Retail Business and Tourism Association for their efforts in making these shows the best yet. The District Council of Coober Pedy is proud to be a major

sponsor of these events, and is hopeful that events such as the Opal Symposium and Gem Trade Show will go some way in reinvigorating the Opal Industry to the benefit of all involved.

The Multi Purpose Sport and Youth Facility is nearing completion and provides a platform to allow the Coober Pedy Saints Football Club and other sporting clubs to host sporting events in Coober Pedy. The facility will also provide offices for the recently funded Youth Web Project Officer. My sincere thanks go to Oxiana for agreeing to become a financial partner with Council, and assisting in the development of this much needed facility.



**Australia Day Naturalisation Ceremony in the Visitor Information Centre**

The Coober Pedy Skate Park was also constructed this year. There was considerable lobbying from the youth of Coober Pedy, resulting in a successful grant application being submitted to the Office of Recreation and Sport. Further funding was also received from Community Benefits, and along with a financial contribution from Council, the Skate Park was constructed in December 2006. It is pleasing to see the amount of use the Skate Park receives from the youth of Coober Pedy, and as such funding is now being sought to provide additional services such as shade and seating to the area.

Passenger numbers on REX continue to increase on the Coober Pedy/Adelaide route and are now approaching a 60% seat load factor. This year saw the implementation of a 34 seat SAAB340 aircraft on the Coober Pedy route, offering passengers a new level of comfort. Council this year entered into a further three year partnership agreement with REX that will hopefully see a Saturday service implemented, growing the route to a seven day a week service while maintaining the current low prices.

It is pleasing to see that the initiatives implemented by the District Council of Coober Pedy and Regional Express have resulted in a increase in passenger numbers of over 60% in the past three years, and a 25% reduction in fares, making air travel to Adelaide more affordable for our community.

Council has begun work on a new strategic plan which will give both Council and the community clear direction as to where we want to be, and what we want to achieve in the next ten years. Consultants have been engaged to undertake the consultation process and formulate a draft plan that will be presented to Council and the community for consideration. It is anticipated that the final draft of the plan will be available in October 2007.

**Steve Baines JP**  
**Mayor**

## **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

The Local Government Elections in November 2006 saw the return (unopposed) of Mayor Steve Baines and the election of four new Councillors. Together with the re-elected Councillors, this provides an excellent balance of experience blended with the 'exuberance of youth' of the new members.

The new Council has hit the ground running and taken up the challenges of its predecessor. They have worked conscientiously and continued to exercise prudent decision making and a common sense approach to community issues.

Our remote community is comprised of people from approximately 45 different ethnic backgrounds and is proud of its diverse multi-cultural lifestyle. Being some 832 kilometres from Adelaide, and often struggling with the tyranny of distance, Council not only undertakes those roles normally associated with local government, but additional roles such as owning and operating the water supply, owning and maintaining the electricity distribution system and managing the Child Care Centre to name a few.

The town's economy remains strongly based on tourism and opal mining, with the latter in general decline. Coober Pedy has developed into the regional service centre for Outback South Australia, with many key service providers basing and/or expanding their roles in the town or region.

Over the past twelve months an air of optimism has swept over the town as the benefits of the mining sector resource boom becomes evident. The Prominent Hill mine, 135 road



**Chief Executive Officer Mr Trevor McLeod**

kilometres southeast of Coober Pedy, continues its development towards full production in the latter half of 2008 and it is estimated that some 50 Coober Pedy residents have obtained work as a result of commencement of mining development.

In the next twelve months or so considerable steps forward are expected from two other mining developments. These are Goldstream's Cairn Hill development, approximately 55 kilometres southeast of Coober Pedy, and Western Plains Resource's development at Peculiar Knob, approximately 120 kilometres southeast of Coober Pedy. Employment prospects appear to be promising. There has been a significant boost in the economy of the town resulting from all three developments.

Significant funding has been provided to ensure the retention of the Child Care Links Officer and Youth Web Project Officer until the end of June 2008. Funding will be sought to extend both positions to ensure infant, young children and youth issues are identified and addressed. It is pleasing to see the completion of the Coober Pedy Skate Park, a joint initiative of the Youth Sector Network, Northern Regional Development Board, Office for Recreation and Sport, Families SA,

Community Benefits SA, Community Connect and Council. The park was completed in December 2006 and has been extremely well patronised by the kids of the town ever since.

Our relationship with Energy Generation (enGen) Pty Ltd, remains on a firm footing, with the reliable supply of electricity continuing throughout the year. Together with Energy SA and enGen, Council has considered and remains open to approaches regarding alternative energy proposals.



**New Executive Assistant Ms Judy Williams**

Council's relationship with its economic development partner, the Northern Regional Development Board, continues to grow and prosper. Council is a funding partner for the positions of Far North Economic Development Officer and the Economic Development Officer – Emerging Industries. The NRDB took on the lead role from the organising committee for the 2007 5<sup>th</sup> National Opal Symposium and Gem Trade Show in April 2007. Both events were outstanding successes with all involved congratulated on a job well done.

Our relationship with Regional Express (Rex) has again proven most beneficial for all parties with an increase of just over 28% in passenger numbers compared with 2005/2006. In October 2006 Rex undertook a full

transition from the 19 seat Metroliners to the 34 seat Saab 340 which provides for the obvious increase in seat capacity along with additional comfort. We look forward to our ongoing relationship with Rex and in further developing, increasing and sustaining passenger numbers on the Adelaide – Coober Pedy route.

Native Title negotiations are continuing with regard to the Breakaways Reserve and the Local Government area. As previously reported these negotiations are lengthy, protracted and have some way to go.

Other developments of note during the year have included:

- Extension of the NRDB Resource Agreement to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008
- Construction of the Changeroom and Youth Facility at Oxiana Oval
- Ongoing provision of 'Community Donations' for community organisations and project
- Major sponsorship of annual Coober Pedy Race Meeting & Gymkhana, 2007 National Opal Symposium and Gem Trade Show

From September 2006 onwards Council has become involved in funding issues between the Commonwealth Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and encapsulated Indigenous Communities which includes the Umoona Community Council. It would appear the Commonwealth is hell-bent on removing funding for Municipal Services from the communities. Council is working together with the Umoona Community in an endeavour

to achieve a win/win solution for all parties.

In May 2007, Council and the Northern Regional Development jointly funded the commencement of a review of Council's Strategic and Community Plans. Indigo Consulting Group was awarded the task and is due to present its final report to Council in October/November 2007.

I take this opportunity to thank the Mayor, Councillors, Senior Management and all staff for the professional manner in which they carried out their work during the year and together we will face the challenges of 2007/2008 with renewed confidence and enthusiasm.

**Trevor McLeod**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

## **WHAT IS COUNCIL AND WHAT DOES IT DO?**

### **Council's role is to:**

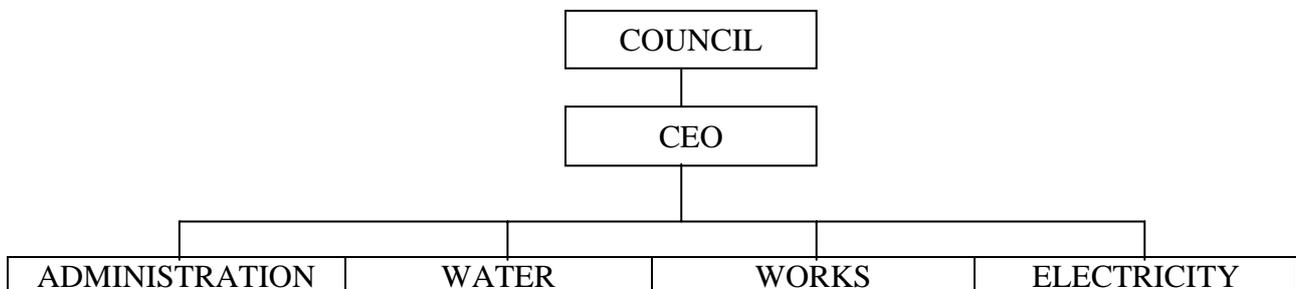
- Provide public services in a fair and equitable manner
- Make decisions on behalf of the community
- Promote and co-ordinate local effort
- Represent the community to other governments
- Manage Council's facilities and resources effectively and efficiently
- Encourage community participation in all aspects of Local Government
- Exercise and perform the powers, functions and duties of Local Government as required by the Local Government Act

### **COUNCIL STRUCTURE**

The District Council of Coober Pedy elector representation is that of a Mayor and eight (8) Councillors. Following the election in November, Council returns to that composition after serving the past three years with a reduced representation by one following the early resignation of one of its elected members mid 2003. Council continues to function effectively, with new Elected Members settling in quite quickly. Council is the policy and decision making body.

The Chief Executive Officer has the responsibility of implementing and administering these policies and decisions through the use of Council's human, physical and financial resources.

The Council is divided into the four (4) departments of Administration, Works, Water and Electricity and is structured as shown below:



## **FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

### **Overview**

This year Council has continued to deal with cost pressures and cashflow issues. The largest of these is the fuel price which continues to cause us daily pressures. There is a real threat that the State government will reduce the subsidy for the 2007-08 year by 10%. This will cause additional pressure.

From 1 July 2006 the Federal Government reduced the excise on fuel purchased for the power station. This has helped to take pressure off the Electricity Budget.

Council, together with IT Vision, has been developing its new Electricity and Water Billing software. It has been in operation for approximately 12 months and we have nearly finished all changes needed.

We have now redesigned the Electricity & Water accounts that people receive, resulting in very positive feedback.

Council started to implement the changeover to a new phone system. This means that all Council phones will be working from one phone system, instead of the previous 7.

Council has also started to changeover the Water Supply software to allow workers to access more information when not on site.

Council continues to work through the changes resulting from the financial sustainability report. The 2007-08 budget will be done using the new Annual Business Plan template.

Council is now in the process of designing a Long Term Budget and an Asset Management Plan.



**Mr Damien Clark, Finance & Administration Manager**

The Council figures at a glance:

Surplus before Depreciation: \$1.089M

Depreciation: \$1.216M

Surplus after Depreciation: (\$0.127)M

Loan Balance @ 30/6/07 \$1.406M

Cash Balance @ 30/6/07 \$0.268M

Debtors Balance @ 30/6/07 \$1.193M

Creditors Balance @ 30/6/07 \$1.732M

All managers should be congratulated for their contribution in achieving this turnaround.

### **Collection of Debts**

Council has found it quite hard this year to collect the debts owing to it. Council is mindful of the various individual financial circumstances in which our customers find themselves and endeavours to balance the need for customers to pay accounts on time whilst appreciative of their circumstances.

Council offers various account payment options including the Internet, phone and in person.

When and where necessary Council tries to accommodate customers with suitable payment plans to ease their financial burden.

The pressure we face with the collection of payments means that we are then under pressure to pay our own accounts.

### **Staff Changes**

This year saw more staff changes in the administration and community departments.

Within administration Sherill Wood returned from maternity leave to take on the role of Rates & Property Officer. Kathy Kiosses moved across to the Electricity/Water Officer.

Leah Henderson returned to her position of Visitor Information Officer, as the traineeship for Haimish McBain finished.

Melissa Borrett moved from Child Care Links to Mini Gems Child Care Worker. Melissa's position has been filled by Tanya Lauder.



Administration Staff from left:

Gina Shelton, Melissa Rosewarne, Michelle Riha, Leah Henderson and Kathy Kiosses  
(Absent: Sherril Wood)

### **Mini Gems Child Care Centre**

The centre is now working to a very high capacity level resulting in issues with accommodating children in the centre.

We are now investigating the possibility of increasing the size of the centre.

Centre management are again to be congratulated in maintaining the excellent standard they have set.

### **Many thanks**

Again I extend my sincere thanks to all Elected Members for their support and positive feedback which, together with prudent financial decisions, has assisted in Council's recovery.

I would like to thank all of the staff under my supervision for their support and diligence with their work.

Thanks also must go to the Senior Management of Council for their diligence and application to their responsibilities which in turn has assisted me in mine.

**Damien Clark**  
**Finance & Administration Manager**

## COUNCIL MEETINGS

Ordinary meetings of Council are held monthly on the third Tuesday at 7.00 p.m.

Members of the public are welcome to attend and speak to Council during the public consultation section of the meetings between 8.00 pm and 8.30 pm.

The agenda is placed on public display on the Friday preceding the meeting. Minutes are available for inspection by the Friday after the meeting.

## SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY

Full Council makes decisions on policy issues relating to services that are provided to the community. These services currently include:

- Road construction and maintenance
- Litter bins
- Traffic control devices
- Public toilets
- Public cemeteries
- School Community Library
- Child Care
- Tree planting
- Planning and Building control
- Rubbish disposal site
- Tourist Information
- Fire hydrant systems & fire protection through CFS
- Parks & reserves
- Water supply
- Electricity supply
- Aged housing
- Aerodrome
- Dog control & impoundment
- Quarry products
- Parking control

- Recreational & sporting facilities
- Plant and equipment hire
- Street cleaning & lighting
- Support for community groups

Council is also required to carry out a number of policing services under various Acts, Regulations and By-Laws. These include control on –

- Environmental Health
- Land use
- Dogs
- Signs
- Land division
- Fire Hazards
- Traffic
- Buildings
- Litter
- Parking



**Council's Playground and BBQ area**

Anyone contemplating undertaking property building development of any kind must obtain Council approval.

If you are unsure about a matter please phone Council by:

Phone: (08) 86 724 600

Fax: (08) 86 725 699 or email at

[dccp@cpccouncil.sa.gov.au](mailto:dccp@cpccouncil.sa.gov.au)

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

### Council Meetings:

Members of the public have a number of opportunities to put forward their views on particular issues before Council. These are –

- **Deputations:**

With the permission of the Mayor a member of the public can address the Council personally or on behalf of a group of residents.

- **Presentation to Council:**

Between 8.00 pm & 8:30 pm at each general meeting of Council any member of the public can address the Council for five (5) minutes on any issues relevant to Council.

- **Petitions:**

Written petitions can be addressed to the Council on any issue within the Council's jurisdiction.

- **Written Requests:**

A member of the public can write to the Council on any Council policy, activity or service.

- **Elected Members:**

Members of the public can contact an Elected Member of Council to discuss any issue relevant to Council.

Council has adopted the following policies, codes and procedures that are also available for public inspection:

- Access to Council Meetings, Council Committees & Council Documents
- Elected Members' Allowances and Support Policy
- Elected Members' Code of Conduct
- Employees' Code of Conduct
- Internal Review of Council Decisions
- Making of Orders
- Public Consultation Policy
- Purchasing Policy
- Rating Policy
- Rate Rebate Policy
- Rates of Allowances for Members
- Register of Allowances and Benefits

# **GENERAL INFORMATION**

## **ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS**

Council has a policy of making all documents available for public inspection except for those that are of a personal nature, relate to matters affecting staff or require some type of contractual confidentiality.

The following documents are available for public inspection at the Council Offices, free of charge:

Council Meeting Agenda, Council Minutes, Council Budget, Annual Report including Annual Financial Statements, Council By-Laws, Plan Amendment Report, Supplementary Development Plan, Planning Application Register, Building Application Register, Register of Elected Members' Allowances & Benefits, Register of Employees' Salaries, Wages & Benefits, Register of Public Streets & Roads, Register of Fees & Charges Levied, Assessment Book & Property Records

Members of the public may purchase copies of these documents for a fee declared by Council during annual budget deliberations.

## **Requests for Other Information**

Requests for other information not included above will be considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information provisions of the Local Government Act. Under this legislation an application and a search fee must be forwarded unless the applicant is granted an exemption.

## **Application of Competition Principles**

During 2006/2007, Council continued with a review of its policies with particular attention paid to the application of National Competition Policy and any possible restrictive aspects by-laws and policies may have on competition.

Council has, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1999, adopted policies and procedures that govern tender and purchase practices for goods and service.



**Changerooms under construction at Oxiana Oval**



**Mini Gems Child Care Centre**



**Community Swimming Pool**

## **HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT - *STAFFING OVERVIEW***

**During the year Council employed the following staff numbers:**

<b>Function</b>	<b>Full-time</b>	<b>Casual</b>	<b>Part-time</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Governance</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Finance &amp; Administration</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Tourism</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Works</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Water Supply</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Electricity Supply</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Library</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Pool</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Childcare</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Childcare Links</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Youth Web</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>68</b>

Total salaries expense for the year ending the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007 was \$2,401,117 which represents 20.43% of Council's total cash expenditure of \$11,751,180.

## STAFF TRAINING

Employee training and development is an investment. It can increase productivity by

- Increasing the skills of employees so that they are capable of operating more efficiently.
- Creating a safer workplace.
- Quickly and efficiently preparing employees to use new technology and deal with workplace changes.
- Increasing employee morale.

Council has delegated the responsibility of staff training to the Chief Executive Officer.

In the 2006/2007 year the following monies were spent on training:

Administration	\$ 17,516
Electricity	\$ 13,474
Works	\$ 24,196
Water	\$ 8,541
Tourism	\$ 1,126
Swimming Pool	\$ 2,419
Child Care Links	\$ 651
Child Care	\$ 2,601
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$ 70,524</u></b>

A large percentage of the training was related to Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare issues.

## EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The goals of council's Equal Employment Opportunity Program are to:

- Ensure that all staff or potential employees receive fair and equitable treatment.
- Engage or promote staff on a proper assessment of merit without discriminatory bias based on sex, sexuality, marital status, pregnancy, race, physical impairment, intellectual impairment or age.
- Involve and consult with staff on work practices and workplace change.
- Employ staff with skills best suited to the provision of Local Government services to the community.
- Give all staff equal access to training.

## **WORKS DEPARTMENT**

### **Roads**

The District Council of Coober Pedy Works Department continues to maintain more than 300 kilometres of roads in the township and mining areas. Grading of roads and driveways to all areas of the township is ongoing and special attention is given to all public requests for road grading and these are carried out in order of priority and the availability of materials if required. Watering of roads is carried out consistently to ease some of the dust problems in town and to extend the maintenance intervals of unsealed roads that carry high traffic loads.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2007 Coober Pedy experienced a significant thunderstorm event that caused extensive damage to most of the unsealed roads and sealed road shoulders. The Works Department responded quickly, carrying out emergency repairs to the worst effected areas, however in total it took approximately 8 weeks to bring the road network back to the condition that it was prior to the storm.

Construction and sealing of the intersection realignment on Paxton Road and Cameron Drive was completed along with the establishment of a section of Jelly Crescent. A program of unsealed road re-sheeting is being undertaken to replenish eroded road surfaces to maintain adequate cover over services.

### **Airport**

Coober Pedy is serviced by 6 Regional Express (REX) public transport flights per week and passenger numbers are growing steadily. REX has introduced the SAAB 340 (34 seat) aircraft to the Coober Pedy - Adelaide route this year



**Works Manager Mr Darren Zechner**

so they are better able to cope with growing numbers and making the trip more comfortable.

Daily runway serviceability inspections are carried out prior to the REX flights by Ronald Michie and Matt Crocker, both of whom are trained Airport Reporting Officers. Ronald and Matt are also responsible for regular maintenance and upkeep of facilities. Yearly Technical inspections are completed by a consulting engineer and the Civil Aviation Safety Authority Inspector audits our compliance to safety regulations on an annual basis. In addition to this Council's Electrician Gavin Talbot also conducts Quarterly Electrical Inspections.

The Transport Security Program and Safety Management System for our Airport were also reviewed this year.



**New Security Cameras and Lighting**

## **Workshop**

The Works Department operates a comprehensive mechanical workshop to maintain and repair all Works, Water Supply, Electricity Supply and Administration vehicles. These range from trucks, loaders, graders and bitumen plant to cars and utilities. The workshop is operated by qualified diesel mechanic, James Fairfull and 4<sup>th</sup> year apprentice Alastair Falland, with Tyson Rosewarne employed as an apprentice diesel mechanic in February 2007.

Steel fabrication work is also carried out by qualified fitter Trevor (Gus) Guthridge, with one of his more notable achievements this year being the new gateway at the entrance to the Town (Oxiana) Oval. Gus also maintains and constructs the 3m<sup>3</sup> skip bins, of which Council has been making 2 available to residents on weekends at no cost for the last 12 months, with this service continuing for at least the remainder of this financial year.

## **Works Depot**

The relocation of the Electricity Distribution Department and the extra associated administrative staff to the Works/Water Depot Offices in 2003/2004 created a real need for more office space. To solve this problem the old Power Station transportable office has relocated to the Works Depot to serve as a Lunch Room/Offices, allowing the existing Lunch room in the main building to be converted in to offices and a public reception area.

## **Other Works Duties**

- Breakaways Reserve Maintenance
- Council Building Maintenance
- Drive In Maintenance

- Sports Area Maintenance
- Cemetery Management and maintenance
- Opal Festival and Coober Pedy Race Weekends; contribution of labour and machinery to help bring these events to fruition
- Private Works – commercial rubbish bin and skip bin pickups, machinery/labour hire
- Quarry Sales and deliveries of sand and metal to customers

## **Parks & Gardens**

Ronald Michie and Matthew Crocker are responsible for the upkeep of Council's Reserves including Keane Reserve, McDougall Road tree plantations, Jewellers Shop Noodling Area, Council Offices gardens and Aerodrome as well as watering and maintaining the Cemetery. Daily checks and maintenance of watering systems are carried out at the school oval, Triangle, the free BBQ areas and playground. They also assist the Works maintenance and construction teams when required.

The Works Department provided the site preparation works for both the newly constructed Skate Park adjacent to the Ampol Roadhouse and Change-room complex at the Triangle. The Change-room complex was funded jointly by Council and Oxiana Pty Ltd. Additional funding from external Government agencies has allowed Council to commence building offices on the mezzanine floor to accommodate a Youth Support Worker.

## **Dog & Cat Management**

Council created a new position this year for a full time Dog Control Officer/General Inspector (Gene Cole) to combat the ever increasing number

of roaming dogs in town. Gene has been effective in reducing their numbers however the problem is ongoing and to assist us in this endeavour residents are urged to hand in unwanted pets to the Council and to have their much loved companions registered and de-sexed. A free service is provided for registered dogs to be inoculated against fleas, ticks and mange.

We welcome Richard Blobel to the position as Gene has now transferred to the Works Construction and Maintenance crew.

### **Waste Depot**

The Council operates a landfill Waste Depot (licensed under the EPA) situated 4 kilometres out of town on the Oodnadatta Road. This year the Depot has commenced the second stage of operation, which is expected to last until May/June 2007. The Depot operates from 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm Monday to Friday, 9.00 am to 1.00 pm Saturday and Sunday, and is closed on public holidays. Dumping of household and other waste is free, however, Council does charge for truck loads of waste, asbestos and commercial bins etc. Dumping anywhere else in town or on the field is illegal and Council will prosecute any offenders.

### **Rubbish Collection**

Daily residential collection from the green (wheelie) bins has proven to be successful. Great assistance has been given as most residents have been placing their bins in the appropriate positions for the designated areas and most of the time the bins are being placed correctly on the road for the automatic pick-up by the rubbish compactor.

### **Aged Housing**

Council maintains 4 dugout units situated on Harlequin Drive, as well as 4 aboveground units on Van Brugge Street. These units are for the elderly and any interested persons requesting occupancy should contact the Community Health Sister at the Health Centre.

### **Training**

Council is committed to a high standard of development and training for its employees including operator tickets for plant and equipment, senior first aid courses, OH&S Green Cards and Work Zone Traffic Management training. Council has also provided training to staff using Autocad design software.

### **Staff**

There were a number of staff changes throughout this financial year due to the resignations of Gary Carmichael (Storeperson) in February, Mark East and Norm Riessen (Construction & Maintenance) in June.

New staff appointments were Gene Cole (Dogs/General Inspector), Roger Boland (Stores), Andrew Lanco (Construction & Maintenance) and Tyson Rosewarne (Apprentice Mechanic).

### **Darren Zechner Works Manager**

## **WATER SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

The Coober Pedy Water Supply System, comprising bore field, desalination plants, storage and reticulation has been in operation now for 22 years. Some areas of the operation are showing signs of age and require constant maintenance and some areas are being upgraded as time and finances permit. Last year has also seen a substantial change to water supply staff. The retirement of Alex Morgan saw the position filled by Daniel Zelenko, with Leigh Edson being replaced by Ben Michie. Richard Whittard was also employed on a casual basis for the vac-truck operations due to increased private works.

### **Borefield**

Both bore soft-start controllers have been replaced with variable speed drives, this should see the bore pump motors last a lot longer before they have to be replaced. There has only been one leak in the Asbestos Cement (AC) pipeline this year, however there has been some issues regarding the manufacturing quality of “gibbo’s” used to join the new ‘Blue Brute’ pipe to the AC pipe. The SR 12 bore pump had to be raised due to a worn electrical cable.

Gas substitution is still employed on genset motors at the bore site.

### **Water Treatment Plant**

Since the new plant was installed in mid-November 2001, the town consumption continues to increase significantly with still no shortage of water for the town. The underground tank (known as the snake pit) is still



**Water Supply Manager Mr Phil Van Poorten**

holding water, however maintenance to the sides and roof will need attention in the near future.

A new high pressure pump for the old plant was purchased to replace the back-up pump (which had been repaired several times).

### **Reticulation System**

The town reticulation system is still showing signs of age, some areas with ductile iron fittings and valves rusting, causing occasional odour and discoloured water. Water Supply staff is replacing mains, services and fittings and has repaired 147 leaks. However, interruptions to supply and small amounts of discoloured water are inevitable.

Water Supply staff urge consumers to notify the council of water quality irregularities and suspected system leaks (damp patches on ground) to enable prompt attention and repair where necessary. The new backhoe has been kept busy with mains and services renewals and is operating quite well.

This year the difference between town consumption and water sales has reduced which is due mainly to the renewal of mains and services.

## **Water Quality**

The District Council of Coober Pedy Water Services is committed to providing the highest achievable water quality as per guidelines recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia (NHMRC), which provide the basis for maintaining quality control.

Water samples are collected from sampling points and tanks and undergo bacteriological and chemical analysis on a monthly basis, or more frequently if deemed necessary, by the S.A. Water Corporation at its Australian Water Quality Centre at Bolivar. Daily tests are also carried out in-house to maintain quality.



Water Supply worker Daniel Zelenko

## **Sewerage System**

The sewerage scheme has been operating efficiently with normal preventative maintenance and repairs being carried out. No additional services have been added to the system this year.

The quality of treated effluent has been maintained to correct levels as required by the Government Statutory Bodies, and is evidenced by the condition of the irrigated school oval and Triangle recreation areas, There is still quite a margin between our current minimum and maximum intake, indicating that

more properties could be connected. There has been a sewer dump point installed for motor homes and caravans to dump their sewers and a pumping station has been installed at the triangle.

Council purchased a new Vac-Truck in September 2006 following a dramatic demand on its services from the Prominent Hill Mine for removal of effluent. This purchase has been well validated with the purchase price being recouped 3-fold during this year alone.

## **Management**

The retirement of Water Supply Manager Mr Les Hoad, is effective from 6<sup>th</sup> July 2007, with the position then being filled by Mr Phil Van Poorten. Les has spent the past 17 years with Council and his involvement, effort and commitment to the development and provision of top quality water to this community cannot be understated. Council wishes Les and wife Maxine all the very best in their retirement.

**Phil Van Poorten**  
**Water Supply Manager**

## **ELECTRICITY SUPPLY**

The District Council is responsible for the supply of electricity to the town of Coober Pedy. Energy Generation Pty Ltd (enGen) owns and operates the gensets that produce the electricity for the town, with Council holding the generation, distribution and retail licences. Council owns, operates and maintains the electricity distribution system with administration staff responsible for the billing system.

A brief description below outlines some of the highlights during the past year.

There have not been any planned or unplanned outages in respect to the generation of power for the past twelve months. Credit is mostly due to staff involved in daily checking and servicing of gensets and the efficient overhaul and repair work carried out.

Mr Dave Sanders is employed by Energy Generation Pty Ltd and is responsible for monitoring the oil and water levels for the eight gensets, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday as well as general cleaning and stock control. Mr Geoff Ferguson is the mechanical maintenance / power station operator employed by Council and his duties include monitoring and rectifying faults as shown on computer controls. He also carries out oil changes, services, general maintenance and repairs on the gensets when required and as requested by enGen and assists mechanics from Adelaide when major overhauls are required.

The Wind Turbine has not been operational for some time now due to problems with the alternator. Attempts at rectifying the fault have proven difficult with enGen assessing alternator replacement costs in order to



**Electricity Supply Staff**

**L to R: Mrs Vonnie Ferguson, Administration Officer, Mr Gavin Talbot, Electrician and Mr Wally Norton, Distribution Supervisor**

make appropriate recommendations to Council.

All the surplus generation plant has been sold. The electrical wiring and piping had to be disconnected from the gensets, with the last to go being the two Rustons and one Caterpillar, together with associated spare parts, to the island of Nauru. The area previously occupied by the gensets will now be converted into storage facilities for Council.

The distribution section is still maintained by Council, with staff comprising new Distribution Supervisor, Mr Graeme Norton, following the resignation of Mr Peter McBain in January after just over 7 years of service. The full time Electrician, Mr Gavin Talbot, carries out most of the electrical work required by Council and assists in other areas when necessary. Mr Michael Rosewarne commenced employment in February as a casual Trade Assistant, having had previous experience in distribution line-work.

Mr Geoffery Graham, who was employed as an Apprentice Linesperson, left the position in early January 2007. Council is still unable to entice qualified Linespersons to

Cooper Pedy making it necessary to hire staff from organisations in Adelaide to assist with the workload. Following the resignation of Mr John Holdrich, Council employed Ms Julie Boland in the position of meter reader commencing her part-time duties in early June. Having lived in Cooper Pedy for some time and having several family members here, Council welcomes Julie to the staff. Utilities Clerk, Mrs Kathy Kiosses is responsible for producing bi-monthly electricity accounts and is situated at the Council Offices.



Working on overhead power lines

Several *planned* power outages were necessary due to the extensive upgrading of several sections of the distribution line-work. Included were the high voltage road crossing on Airport Road being completed and a low voltage SWER earth on the Potch Gully line being replaced.

Damage is still being caused by cockatoos chewing through insulation on overhead wires, resulting in the town having a few *unplanned* power outages. Other outages were experienced by customers due to burnt out and faulty service fuses, storm damage causing two service pits to burn out and damage on the Hopeful Hill SWER.

The Elevated Work Platform (EWP) was driven to Adelaide in July to have

the mandatory 15 year rebuild and it was necessary to hire another unit during the four weeks while the rebuild was completed.

Electricity single phase meters are installed by Council's Electrician, Mr Gavin Talbot. Plug-in type meters are now used on new premises, where a supply has been upgraded, replacing damaged meters or replacing old clock-face meters.

The now vacant office block at the power station will be relocated to the Works Depot and altered into a new crib room for staff. The existing crib room will be altered into a reception area and an additional office to accommodate Mrs Vonnie Ferguson, Administration Assistant, as well as the electricity supply staff.

This year three new customers were connected on the SWER line and in the town area a block of four units and two other customers with single phase installations, with two customers in the town area having three phase installations completed.

Bi-monthly night patrols of the public lighting are inspected by two of the Linespersons. Replacements and any repairs, as the need arises, are dealt with during the course of daily work. Only a few of the old 40 Watt fluorescent lights are still in use and gradually being replaced with 80 Watt mercury vapour lights. Several of these lights were damaged by cockatoos and were repaired as soon as practicable. Special thanks to the public notifying Council of lights not working.

Two staff members from the Office of the Technical Regulator visited Cooper Pedy during August to have

discussions with staff and continue ongoing investigations.

Several properties with faulty electrical installations were advised to upgrade their electrical wiring and these have now been completed. One property owner had to relocate electrical installation where the meter was enclosed in the veranda and this does not conform to the standards required and in the event of a fire, would cause a hazardous situation.

The OHS & W Audit early in July was compliant and the Legislative Audit in March indicated a few issues to be addressed. Testing of all lifting equipment, personnel issued equipment and associated items for Low Voltage (LV) and High Voltage (HV) usage on the EWP is continually being tested and updated as required. Renewal of all licences and training is monitored and updated whenever trainers are available to come to Coober Pedy or, on occasions, staff must travel to Adelaide to obtain a certificate on specialised equipment.

Electricity supply staff are looking forward to occupying their new office shortly and as this year has run smoothly, we sincerely hope next year will run the same.

**Graeme Norton**  
**Distribution Supervisor**

## **VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE**

For the majority of 2006/2007, Council's permanent Visitor Information Officer, Ms Leah Henderson, was seconded to the internal administration office as Water/Electricity Officer during an extended staff absence. The position was filled by Tourism Trainee Haimish McBain until April of 2007 when his traineeship concluded.



Visitors checking out the attractions in Coober Pedy

The Visitor Information Centre continues to focus on the provision of unbiased and valuable information for the travelling public and also as a resource for town information following the many requests received, particularly by school children.

The upgraded and more vibrant Visitor Information Centre continues to attract many favourable comments and is easier to navigate for visitors. It is very pleasing to see that the Coober Pedy Historical Society has chosen the VIC to display some of its treasured historical documents and artefacts and will continue to routinely rotate these items.

Council continues to fund the VIC for opening hours on weekends and public holidays, staffed by Ms Jacqui Boland until April when she chose to head off

overseas on a 12 month working holiday.

The Visitor Information Officer also provides invaluable assistance, support and logistics for the town's annual Opal Festival, as does Council and its Works staff in particular.

It is very pleasing to see that the VIC passed its National Accreditation during the year and this entailed significant work by staff to ensure this took place.

Council also committed to providing \$1,500 per year for three years to the Flinders Ranges and Outback SA Tourism Marketing Strategy, just one of 11 funding contributors made up of Local Government Bodies, Tourism Associations and organisations.

The swimming pool continues to be extremely popular with visitors to Coober Pedy. Manager Barry Daniell and his staff continue to provide a wonderful facility that is well utilised during warmer months.



Teaching the toddlers to swim

Staff undertake regular training in order to provide the very best of service to the community.

**Leah Henderson**  
**Visitor Information Officer**

### Schedule of Community Donations

During the financial year the following community donations were allocated:

Coober Pedy Amateur Racing Club Inc.	\$2,150
Coober Pedy Historical Society	\$ 550
Dusty Radio	\$1,000
Coober Pedy Area School – Out of School Hours Care	\$2,000
2007 National Opal Symposium	\$5,000
Coober Pedy Outback Open Air Cinema Inc	\$ 600
Coober Pedy Opal Fields Golf Club	\$5,000
Coober Pedy Motor Club (in-kind)	\$ 900
Coober Pedy Miners Association	\$8,500
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$25,700</b>

### Census 2006 (As per 2006 ABS Census Summary)

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Population	1,084	830	1,914
Speaks language other than English	280	173	453
Australian citizens	871	629	1,500
People of Indigenous Origin	128	140	268

Despite the effort of Council, Census 2006 staff and other community organisations, the statistics provided as a result of the 2006 Census were disappointing and do not reflect the true population of Coober Pedy, which is estimated to be approximately 3,500 therefore the information provided above should be tempered by that reality.

### **The Internet**

The 2006 Census revealed the following information regarding Internet Connections:

Broadband Connection:	167 Dwellings
Dial-up:	113 Dwellings
Other:	6 Dwellings
<b>Total:</b>	<b>286 Dwellings</b>

**Not Stated:**                      **72 Dwellings**

**No Internet Connection:**    **381 Dwellings**



**Oxiana Oval**

**ELECTED MEMBERS**



Mayor Steve **BAINES** Ph: 0418 890 710



Deputy Mayor Michael **MAYLIN** Ph: 0417 803 542



Councillor Paul **ATHANASIADIS** Ph: 0886 725 179



Councillor Tina **DOULGERIS** Ph: 0419 416 824



Councillor Alex **MORGAN** Ph: 0886 725 762



Councillor Boro **RAPAIC** Ph: 0886 725 068



Council Beverly **STAINES** Ph: 0886 723 438



Councillor Geoffrey **SYKES** Ph: 0419 301 559



Councillor Kevin **WOON** Ph: 0886 723 519

**ELECTED MEMBERS MEETING ATTENDANCE RECORD**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Ordinary</b>	<b>Attended</b>	<b>Special</b>	<b>Attended</b>
<b>Mayor S Baines</b>	7	5	8	7
<b>Cr M Maylin</b>	7	4	8	6
<b>Cr P Athanasiadis</b>	7	6	8	3
<b>Cr T Doulgeris</b>	7	7	8	7
<b>Cr A Morgan</b>	7	7	8	7
<b>Cr B Rapaic</b>	7	6	8	6
<b>Cr B Staines</b>	7	6	8	5
<b>Cr G Sykes</b>	7	7	8	8
<b>Cr K Woon</b>	7	7	8	7

**SENIOR ADMINISTRATION**

Chief Executive Officer	<b>McLeod, Trevor</b>	86 725 408
Finance & Administration Manager	<b>Clark, Damien</b>	86 723 828
Manager Water Supply	<b>Van Poorten, Phil</b>	86 725 595
Manager Works	<b>Zechner, Darren</b>	86 725 069
Distribution Supervisor	<b>Norton, Graeme</b>	0417 814 617

## **SELECTED STATISTICS FOR 12 MONTHS TO 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2007**

<u><b>Properties</b></u>	<u><b>No</b></u>	<u><b>Valuation</b></u>
Crown Land (non-rateable)	353	10,819,688
Vacant	252	2,471,606
Residential	1,171	54,447,512
Commercial & Industrial	137	23,836,119
Other non-rateable	2	222,850
Primary	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>1,915</u></b>	<b><u>91,797,775</u></b>

Building Applications (Commercial Only)	13
Planning Applications	48
Land Division	0

### **Water Supply Department**

Raw water pumped from bore field	488,678 kl
Potable water produced	324,480 kl
Desalination operating hours	10,004 hrs
Number of customers	1,555
New connections for 12 months to 30.6.2007	2
Services removed	0
Sewerage Scheme intake	50,490 kl
Treated Effluent Recovery Rate	94.82%
Irrigation (grey) water	47,875 kl
Highest recorded daily water demand	1,350 kl

### **Electricity Supply Department**

(Energy Generation Pty Ltd (enGen) data)	
Kilowatt hours of electricity generated (including Wind Turbine)	13,108,235 kWh
Town Consumption	13,083,576 kWh
Fuel consumed (diesel litres)	3,579,039

### **Works Department**

**Roads** – Council road lengths at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007 (includes roads to mining fields)

Lengths at end of year	<u>Sealed</u>	<u>Formed</u>	<u>Unformed</u>	<u>Natural surface</u>	<u>Total</u>
In built-up areas (km)	25.00	40.00			65.00
In non built-up areas (km)	2.00	102.00	<u>12</u>	<u>242</u>	<u>358.00</u>
<b>Total Road Lengths</b>	<b><u>27.00</u></b>	<b><u>142.00</u></b>	<b><u>12</u></b>	<b><u>242</u></b>	<b><u>423.00</u></b>