



The Andamooka Press

First Published in 1973

JULY TO SEPTEMBER - 2022
VOLUME 12, ISSUE 3

UP-COMING EVENTS

- ◆ **September 10th:**
Minnie 'Mooka Bush
Bash Live Music by Just Mates.
Minnie Berrington Fundraiser.
- ◆ **September 20th:**
Koonamore Station
Stickybeak Day
- ◆ **September 28th:** *Soils*
Half Day Workshop
- ◆ **October 7th:** **APOMA**
Nominations Close
- ◆ **November 13th:**
APOMA AGM

Please Be Advised:
Due to the ongoing spread of
COVID-19, events may be
cancelled or postponed.
More on Events page 9...

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

APOMA News & Notices	2/3
Community Business	4
Community Projects	5
Transforming Andamooka	6
Lapidary Program	7
Events Calendar	8
What's On In Andamooka	9
The Creative Corner	10
History Re-Visited	11
Andamooka Life	12
Regional Health Forum	13
Police & Health Services	14
School & Community	15
Community Noticeboard	16

Header Photo:
White-browed Babbler.

Source: A. Smoker, 2019

PUT YOUR HAND UP - IT'S ABOUT MAKING A DIFFERENCE

It's that time of year again. After a challenging but relatively successful year for the town, which also enjoyed good numbers of visitors staying and supporting the town, together with some pretty interesting and successful events and activities adding colour to the lives of locals, we are now back at the annual crossroads of finding a group of individuals who are willing to lead the town into the next year and beyond.

We all agree there is no silver bullet to this annual quest, but if we want the town to continue to grow and to flourish.. then as things stand, we need to put an APOMA Committee in place at the AGM on 13th November.

These are people who take on the unenviable task of signing off on managing the towns finances and looking after the day to day management of the town, it's community facilities and programs, maintenance of public spaces and buildings, keeping the bins empty, the gas bottles full, the caravan park in order, commissioning the splash pad, making sure that the pipeline is holding together so we can all get water, and assisting the community with all sorts of services, activities and events. But it is the very caliber of our community itself that make this all worthwhile.

On another level, the committee lobby for better health services, a police presence, better roads and the much needed connector, a better deal in regard to the proposed fees to be imposed regionally, and contacting politicians, talking with other outback communities, and finding ways to fund new projects, services and programs, all to the benefit of the town and community.

There may be no glory in this job... it can be thankless at times, and stressful at others. But the day-to-day workload is carried by the town office staff, who all work well over and above the meagre hours they are paid to support the Committee, working together with them as a team.

The record of achievement over the years as committees change and flux, is astounding. Amazing groups of volunteers who have battled to keep the town together and moving ahead through the good times of the late 50's to late 70's, the tough times, and during difficult periods such as those experienced at the turn of the millennium and again across this recent pandemic.

Over the years their collective energies have built a legacy for future Andamookan's... but it is for this future that we now seek people willing to put their hand up, and to volunteer onto the committee. Put their ideas into motion, build on the achievements of the past, create fresh vibrancy and to take the town forward.

- Rodney Mitchell

NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN FOR POSITIONS ON THE APOMA COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

**For the Term commencing November 2022
NOMINATIONS CLOSE Fri 7th October 2022**

Nomination forms and information
available on-line at, or via email, or at Town
Office, Post Office and bottleshop.

Email: secretary@apoma.com.au

COMMUNITY CONTACTS & INFORMATION

FOR ALL EMERGENCIES CALL 000

Your call will be directed to the right organisation to manage the situation.

Police: 131 444

SES/CFS:
John West: 0408 807 943
Stefan Bilka: 0427 181 752

Andamooka Community Health Service:
Hospital Road 8672 7087
See page 6 for daily clinic hours
After Hours: Emergencies Only

Post Office: 8672 7007
Open 7 Days, Opal Creek Blvd.
- Dukes Bottlehouse Motel
- Laundry-mat
- Claims Registration
Hours: 9am - 5pm Weekdays
11am - 3pm Weekends
Power Cards @ Post Office

Andamooka Powerhouse:
8672 7235

Town Office: 0477 184 485
School Rd
Open: Tue-Thur, 10am - 3pm

Andamooka School & Children's Centre: 8672 7018
Public Library Hours, See Pg 15

Andamooka Community Hall:
Enquires, contact APOMA
- Kids Splash Pad & BBQ Area
- Book Exchange & Art Exhibitions

Andamooka Dine-A-Mite Cafe:
Opal Creek Blvd. PH 0409 512 692
Located at the Community Hall

Andamooka Caravan Park & Playground: 0477 184 485
Opal Creek Blvd.

Bottle Shop: 8672 7183
Opal Creek Blvd. Open 7 Days

CWA: 8672 7044
Andamooka Boo-Teek Op Shop
Open Fri & Sat, 9am - 12pm
Top of CWA Rd

Motor Vehicle Registration:
Roxby Downs Town Council

Roving Vet: 8642 3308

For more details, visit:

www.andamooka.sa.au

ANDAMOOKA PROGRESS AND OPAL MINERS ASSOCIATION INC.

AGM 13th NOVEMBER

2022 APOMA Annual General Meeting

will be held at 2.30pm, Sunday 13th
November 2022 at the

**Andamooka Community Hall, School Road,
Andamooka**

Community members are encouraged to attend

AGENDA & ORDER OF BUSINESS:

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME
2. PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL REPORTS
3. ADOPTION OF ANNUAL REPORTS
4. OUTCOMES AND PROJECTS 2021-2023
5. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS
6. GENERAL BUSINESS
7. CLOSURE OF MEETING

Items for GENERAL BUSINESS: If you have something important that you would like raised for discussion at the AGM, you may lodge a request with the Committee for inclusion as an item in general business, addressed to The Secretary, APOMA either, in person at the Town Office or by email to secretary@apoma.com.au or by post to PO Box 246, Andamooka 5722, to be received by Thursday 3rd November 2022.

At Bank End June 2022:	Allocated funds acc \$46,331
Operations acc \$111,446	Projects acc \$116,099
Debit Card \$1,704	Reserve Funds \$15,580

MINUTES & OTHER INFORMATION:

Please visit the website to access minutes from APOMA meetings and for other information. If unable to access the website, please call APOMA to arrange an alternative.

ANDAMOOKA TOWN OFFICE

YOUR ONE-STOP SHOP FOR OCA, APOMA & TOWN BUSINESS

OPEN TUESDAY - THURSDAY
10AM - 3:00PM

URGENT ENQUIRIES

OCA: 08 8648 5970 **APOMA:** 0477 184 485

Town Maintenance: Richard Hawkins 0418 855 165

Address: Community Hub, School Rd, Andamooka

Postal: PO Box 246 Andamooka SA 5722

Email:

OCA: oca@sa.gov.au

APOMA/Town Office: secretary@apoma.com.au

Town Maintenance/Projects: admin1@apoma.com.au

Events & Memberships: admin3@apoma.com.au

Newsletter: admin2@apoma.com.au

OCA: 26 Mildred St, Pt Augusta West **Ph:** (08) 8648 5970

CCS & Avdata payments accepted at Post Office

APOMA is the peak body representing the opal miners, residents, community and township of Andamooka.

APOMA'S key objectives are to lead the community, protect miners rights & build a sustainable future for the town; maintain & develop the township; assist the development of opal mining & promote opal markets; promote & facilitate tourism, promote & facilitate community wellbeing, social inclusion & equality within the township.

Chair: Ian Thompson

Secretary: Alison Smoker

Treasurer: Gill Rowley

PO Box 246 Andamooka SA 5722

Email: secretary@apoma.com.au

NEXT MEETING

13th November 2022

Correspondence addressed to the Secretary due 7 days prior to meeting.

www.andamooka.sa.au

PUBLISHER

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Email: admin2@apoma.com.au

M: 0477 184 485

Chair: Ian Thompson

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Web: www.andamooka.sa.au

Facebook: /AndamookaHub

Email us to receive an email copy, or phone us to request a paper copy.

ADVERTISING & NOTICES

Advertising & notices are free of charge to local charities and groups.

ADVERTISING RATES:

Full Page: By Sponsorship Only

1/3 Page: \$32 or \$325 Annually

1/4 Page: \$25 or \$250 Annually

1/6 Page: \$15 or \$150 Annually

Strip: \$17 or \$175 Annually

Business Card: \$7.50 or \$75 Annually

Classified: \$5 or \$50 Annually

CONTACT: Gill Rowley

Email: treasurer@apoma.com.au

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APOMA NEWS & NOTICES

A Letter from the Chair

Andamooka and APOMA are inviting all to consider a position on the APOMA Committee.

Current legislation provides for a community based incorporated body to take on the responsibility of managing our town, and its finances which result from the CCS contributions paid by Andamooka's property and business owners. By taking on the current level of responsibility, accessible local management is in place which also results in more cost effectiveness, stretching funds a lot further for investing in the town and community.

If APOMA doesn't have an operational committee capable of raising a quorum for meetings and decision making, then it can't continue to undertake this responsibility. It is unsure what situation this would leave the town in.

Those who have worked so hard on projects and funding over the past 5 years are frankly worn out... This town, which runs on volunteers and a small salaried group, needs fresh faces and energies to lead Andamooka into its next phase...

There is room for a committee of 10. A number put in place to cover absences for shift workers and part-time residents, but the reality is that forming a quorum of 5 at meetings can be challenging.

Concerningly, following this coming AGM there will be 6 vacancies to fill on the Committee, leaving less than a quorum in place. Outgoing committee members will follow policy for succession, and so will commit themselves to the first 3 months in hand-over roles.

But it is time to refresh and regenerate our town management to continue with the resurgence and sustaining of our township.

Year on year, all people who have been involved with APOMA on the committee have without exception, put their best foot forward and tried, and succeeded, in making a difference.

At times there might be disagreements and controversy, which come with small communities, but which also created challenge often ending in a positive outcome. But nothing has bought down the fierce independence and spirit that make this town unique and its pulse strong enough to thrive in adversity.

Exemplified by the pandemic, the whole community looked out for each other. Food and supplies, the elderly's medical needs, shared resources, and care. Care for each other. Generation upon generation looking after this town. Community spirit like this is hard won... and we have it.. right here in Andamooka.

The next generation of committee is now upon us... and needed! Age (18 upwards) is no barrier.

Yes, you need to be a member of APOMA. But.. what does that mean? Being a member means that you see a reason, a purpose, for discussion and for "putting your hand up" when votes count towards what gets done or not in our town.

What happens to our town if not for votes? Who gets to say what does and doesn't happen in and for our town? The Committee is only as good as the members that contribute towards and support the work they do. **Yes..it is actually just that simple....**

There are criteria to be met to make sure that this process is done conscientiously and correctly, and that persons entering onto the committee have a basic familiarity with the town and its processes. Although this might prevent some from being nominated for this AGM, there is a simple procedure to follow to enable you to be seconded on to the committee at a later date. So come to the meeting, put your hand up, or let someone know you'd like to go onto the committee.

For now, to all those who qualify, please consider a this a chance to give back by becoming one of the doers within our community, and nominate for the committee, If you need assistance with this, contact the office or a committee member,

Right now... your town needs you.

Ian Thompson,

Retiring Chair - APOMA

Community Contribution Scheme (CCS)

Quarterly Payments
Avdata Water Payments &
Keys managed at the
Andamooka Post Office

Reminder that the next CCS
Contributions are due.

MAKE SURE YOUR CONCERNS OR COMPLAINTS REACH THE RIGHT PLACE FOR ATTENTION

The OCA is the responsible body to manage and have addressed issues, concerns or complaints about:

◇ **ROADS:** Including major external access roads, outer tracks and town roads.

◇ **CAT & DOG (Not feral) ISSUES:** Including attacks, nuisance, wandering and other serious concerns.

◇ **DUMP**

Please call direct:
(08) 8648 5970

Or visit the Andamooka Town Office who will assist your call to the OCA via the Office.

APOMA MEMBERSHIPS

APOMA 2021 memberships lapse end of March 2022.

To make your vote count, please make sure that you have paid-up your 2022 membership fees.

Fees can be paid at the Town Office or online to:

NAB

BSB:085 896

Acc: 2425 11591

KEEPING UP WITH BUSINESS

ANDMAOOKA COMMUNITY RISING TO THE CALL...

In a Page 4 article titled 'Over to You' published in the March 2022 edition of 'the Press', we called upon members of the community to take up the challenge and make the best use of our new and upgraded facilities and to form like interest groups to take existing, new and emerging community programs and initiatives forward into a better and more vibrant future for our town and community.

There has been an unrealistic reliance upon a small volunteer committee and office staff to manage community programs and events, whilst creating and managing facilities and services to provide the needs for these. The committee and office staff are there to present opportunities and to then facilitate members of the community to take up those opportunities to build programs and events that will benefit their respective groups, and in turn create whole of community wellbeing.

Over the past couple of years, as the Covid pandemic affected so many lives and changed the way we do things, several groups of locals have taken up the challenge to pull together community programs which had been so amazingly valuable to so many in these unprecedented times, by presenting locals not only with the opportunity to use, increase or learn skills, but to have regular social contact with others and to share and enjoy activities and life...

The seniors' social program has struggled as flu has ravaged members, but they now have an opportunity to move into the renovated 'Old Church' community centre and to make this historic building with a view, into cosy and welcoming headquarters where they can increase their activities on a day by day basis. This expanded program will be facilitated via a new community program coordinator yet to be appointed.

Youth is another group who have suffered a loss of contact and activities due to the

pandemic, and they too have new dedicated headquarters where they can increase their day to day activities and expand their program. We are currently seeking a team of between 2 to 4 paid casual youth workers who will also be facilitated via a new community program coordinator.

The lapidary group has bought together a wonderful program which meets the needs of so many within our community, offering skill building, a place to share ideas and skills, and importantly enjoy lively social interaction. This program has been facilitated via the town office and this support will continue with a new community program coordinator bridging the gap between the office and the group. We thank Greg and his small team of primaries, for their dedication and work which has made this program so successful.

Another group with a new and vibrant team leading the challenge, is the Andamooka Collective – a group of amazing local artists and crafters, who are now reaching out to all within our talented community to join with others in the group, to build a base and a program that will benefit all forms of artists – inclusive of musicians, fabrics, culinary, photography and film-making and other forms of art, to get involved and to create a broad and vibrant arts program of events, exhibitions, collective marketing and funding and to make use of the new 'home base' which will offer benefits both promotional and sales, to those involved in Andamooka's growing broad range of cottage industry.

A recent addition has been the 'Hub Community Garden Group', coordinated by Debra Mundy, which has been busy working on restoring and revitalising the community gardens around the Hub Precinct. Anyone with an odd hour or two to spare, and who likes mucking around in gardens, is encouraged to drop down to the Hub and join in the activities.

Work is about to start on construction of the new Community Produce Garden which will be located at the Recreation Precinct, and will be progressively developed in a quest to produce fresh seasonal produce for our community to be sold via our new Community Shop at the hall. The Shop is progressively coming together, and will offer a great service to the town and to visitors, with an open and accessible 'front of office' for a whole range of information and services, as well as sales of local products, and the intention to offer basic café fare on Mondays and Tuesdays.



R&H Roxby Downs RLA 208715

Contact our R&H team if you're looking for
 • free appraisals • sales & property management
 • property in Roxby Downs & Andamooka

Shop 4/14 Tutop Street, Roxby Downs
 Telephone: 08 8671 3355 Fax: 08 8671 3366
 Email: info@roxbydowns.rh.com.au

ANDAMOOKA COMMUNITY PROJECTS

MAINTENANCE & PROJECTS UPDATE

All in all it's been a slow three months during an unusually cold winter. Our CDP crew has shrunk considerably as we trudge on through the fallout from the covid pandemic and a few other health issues. But, the good news is that we currently have three dedicated CDP participants that all regularly put in volunteer hours beyond their obligated requirements and so they are progressively achieving so much for our town and community. *Feel free to say g'day and compliment them for a job well done.*



"Toilet block interior for Recreation Facility."

Recreation Facility:

- The building itself has been completed. The toilet block is however holding us up. It was late to be delivered due to the manufacturers Covid problems and we are now finding it incredibly difficult to engage a civil engineering company to undertake the design engineering for the septic system. This is I'm assured, also a result of the pandemic & demands from major road works projects throughout the state tying up civil engineers. We continue to follow this up.

Community Hub complex:

- We also have a hold up on the supply of the new tank for the splash pad. We have decided to cancel the order and go with another company, so hopefully we will have it commissioned before the weather heats up aiming for the usual opening date on the October long weekend.
- The Hall interior painting was done in time for SALA and due to this year's bitter cold, we have installed two 'test heaters' in the seating space and will monitor effectiveness for the next couple of months with the view to having the hall better heated for next winter.
- The new community garden group is doing a great job of improving the gardens around the Hub space. Many thanks to Deb and her volunteer crew.

Continued on Page 6...

SEEKING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

CATERING - COMMUNITY KITCHEN

This will initially be offered as a casual paid position that will require commitment on a minimum of 2 days per week.

Tasks involve cooking and preparing food for sale through the Community Shop including basic café fare on Monday's & Tuesdays weekly.

There is the opportunity for expansion and for small business development. The Committee is open to ideas and to supporting development.

Please lodge your interest with the Town Office via email to admin3@apoma.com.au, or at the Town Office or leave at the Post Office.

More information: email or call 0477 184 485

SEEKING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

PRECINCT CARETAKER/S:

This will initially be offered as two casual paid positions to take care of day to day functions for the central Hub Precinct and the Recreation Precinct which also encompasses the camp ground. *This could be offered as a single position.*

Tasks involve regular maintenance checks & overseeing of facilities and services for activities within the space.

Hours are flexible, and with the progressive introduction of new and expanding facilities these may increase.

Please lodge your interest with the Town Office via email to admin1@apoma.com.au, or at the Town Office or leave at the Post Office.

More information: email or call 0477 184 485

COMPLETE
personnel

group

Thinking employment?
Think Complete

Jenna Post Consultant

1B 20-22 Tutop St, Roxby Downs SA 5725

Ph: (08) 8671 0621 Fax: (08) 8671 0481 M: 0418 807 450

Email: jenna.post@complete-personnel.com.au

Web: www.complete-personnel.com.au



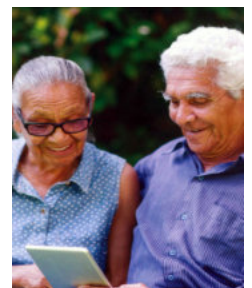
Be Connected

Every Australian online.

Upcoming Workshops:
Calendars, Books & Photo Albums

Sessions for 2022: TBA

Please Book: 0477 184 485



Maintenace & Projects Update - Continued

Community bus:

- Covid deep cleaning is continuing prior to the bus being used on Thursdays.

Lapidary Workshed:

- The steel has finally arrived for the new front verandah and a contractor engaged to erect, so that will progress during the next month and just in time as summer draws nearer.

Playground solar system:

- The batteries that support the solar system for the playground toilets, BBQ & lighting around that space finally failed in July. Replacements are in short supply but we have managed to source a solution which is being installed and so the system should all be operational again by month end.

Pump Track:

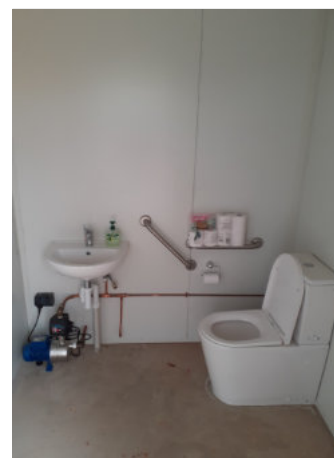
- Most of you would have noticed that we have taken delivery of the new pump track components – they are those large stacks sitting at the campground. The initial groundwork to level the site has been completed, and we are sourcing quotes to lay an artificial turf surface after which we can begin assembly of the track. So hoping that this might be in place for the October long weekend....



"Pump track components on site and waiting for assembly."

Old Church Community Centre:

- The restoration of the old church has been completed and it now has a new ambulant toilet facility and septic system installed. Electricians and plumbing have been upgraded but a few more cosmetic tasks remain for completion. Namely the new kitchenette fit-out & paving the front verandah, which will be addressed as time and access to materials allow. We are keen for some volunteer help to help tidy up the interior including repainting the walls and helping to remove the old kitchen bits, as well as to assist with paving.



"New toilet facilities for the Old Church Community Centre."

We are lucky to have a number of community volunteers that are actively building sets and props for the up coming Minnie Berrington documentary, due to start in September. This project continues to expand, and ongoing, with volunteer assistance, Andamooka will have an exciting and informative historic trail resulting from the work put into the documentary, connecting up regionally from the mid-north to Coober Pedy.

We thank our wonderful volunteers, both local & traveling, for providing their skills and assistance to our long list of community projects and programs.

If you have some spare time, maybe regularly or just on occasion, why not put that towards something that will work for our town and community – lend a hand to those working hard to bring a new vibrancy to our lifestyle and wellbeing. Contact Richard at the town office.



DOING OUR OWN THING.... Getting our community produce garden off the ground...

With food prices rising and availability of produce diminishing.. why not grow our own????

Did you know that nutritious and delicious micro-greens grow from seed to table in around 14 days – and when fresh harvested are at peak for both goodness and flavour? Imagine if we had these available to purchase, fresh picked daily, at our own community shop....

Did you know that tasty tomatoes, and a range of herbs can be grown year-round in Andamooka?

That sprouts of all types are so easy to grow and offer a year-round fresh crunch to all sorts of dishes and great in sandwiches and wraps, or on top of soups...? Oh.. and they are good for you too!

Or, that just 6 mushroom growing pods would cover our community demand on a day by day basis, and that growing our own can offer a wide variety of fresh and flavour-some mushrooms?

In addition, there is such a wide variety of seasonal vegetables and fruits that can be grown right here, to be picked fresh to order and then sold at very affordable prices to locals via our community shop and to local business – with surplus being made available to visitors and tourists.

With food getting harder to source and prices soaring... the question has to be asked, 'Why aren't we working together to make fresh affordable fruit and vegetables available 7 days a week... a reality?'

We have the space, equipment and resources in order – We have start up funding in the bank which can assist with

constructing garden beds and purchasing fruit vines and trees..

The only thing stopping this become a reality is manpower... or person-power... We need a bunch of volunteers to offer a couple of hours once or twice a week to help make this happen.. and getting out into the fresh air and sunshine... sampling the produce.. enjoying the company of others and planning what to plant and nurture next... Plus we need a coordinator – this could be a shared paid position...

SEEKING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

COORDINATOR - COMMUNITY PRODUCE GARDEN

This will be a casual, part-time paid position that will require commitment to a couple of hours 5 days per week.

This will involve working with the town Project Manager on logistics, planning and ordering. The core task will be coordinating a band of volunteers to cover requirements across 7 days a week – including daily watering and harvesting.

Please lodge your interest in this position with the Town Office via email to admin1@apoma.com.au, or at the Town Office or leave at the Post Office.

More information: email or call 0477 184 485

ANDAMOOKA CARAVAN PARK

Fossil for opal, fossils & many other minerals in & around the friendly, un-spoilt opal mining township. Get up close to its colourful history & take time to explore the unbridled horizons & fascinating town attractions.

- Showers & Toilets
- Potable Water
- Undercover BBQ Kitchen
- Undercover Playground
- Waste Pump-Out Facility
- Walking Distance To Town Hub

Unlimited nights at \$4 per person, per night
Or \$12 per night with power (2 people)
Pay at the Donation Column.

CNR. OPAL CREEK BLVD & WATER WAY

All-Weather sealed road from Stuart Hwy

Grid ref: 30.4499 S / 137.1635 E

Find us on Facebook!



Phone 0409 512 692

DINE-A-MITE CAFE

Open Wednesday- Sunday 9am-3pm
Including Friday Night until 8pm

LOCATED IN THE ANDAMOOKA COMMUNITY HALL

ANDAMOOKA MINER'S SHACKS
SHORT-STAY ACCOMMODATION

Step back in time... relaxed pace...

Stay for a Weekend, Holiday or Short-Term Rent

Accommodates 2 up to 8 People
Fully Enclosed Outdoor Space with BBQ
Family & Pet Friendly

Ph: 0427 508 075



What's On In Andamooka?
Find Us On Facebook
/AndamookaHub

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

26th: Australia Day

FEBRUARY

14th: Valentine's Day

MARCH

APRIL

Easter Long Weekend
25th: ANZAC Day

MAY

JUNE

June Long Weekend

JULY

Dog Registrations Due

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

5th: SALA Exhibition Closure
10th: Minnie 'Mooka Bush Bash
20th: Koonamore Station Stickybeak Day
28th: Soils Ladies Day

OCTOBER

October Long Weekend
31st: Halloween

NOVEMBER

13th: APOMA AGM

DECEMBER

25th: Christmas Day

Welcome All Seniors Wacky Wednesdays

Join in the fun & activities or
just enjoy a cuppa & chat

10AM - 12PM

At the Community Hall

Andamooka Community Church

Meet at Hall on Sun @ 3pm
For music, worship & sharing
of evening prayer

More Details: 8671 0270

Andamooka / R.D. Bible Church

Worship Service 10:30 Sunday
Bible Study 7:30 Wednesday

Water Way, Andamooka

Contact: 8672 7004

Andamooka Sports Shooting Assoc.



For more information on
activities & events

Contact: Matt 0419 504 200



VISIT

ANDAMOOKA OPAL SHOWROOM ANDAMOOKA DUKE'S BOTTLEHOUSE Motel

Opal
Opal Jewellery
Opal Cutting and Demo's
(by appointment)

**INFORMATION
&
ACCOMMODATION**

View our **ANDAMOOKA OPAL MUSEUM**
Underground Worldwide Opal & Mineral Display

Ph 0886727007

275 Opal Creek Boulevard, Andamooka, SA.

Email... andamookaopal@hotmail.com

Web... www.andamookaopal.com.au



Open 7 Days

WHAT'S ON IN ANDAMOOKA

SAVE THE DATE!

Soils LADIES DAY

WEDNESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

WILKATANA STATION

HALF DAY WORKSHOP

LEARN ABOUT WHAT MAKES A HEALTHY SOIL

HOW TO DESCRIBE AND TEST SOILS ON YOUR PROPERTY

EASY SOIL EROSION CONTROL TECHNIQUES AND TIPS FOR FAMILIES

BRING ALONG SAMPLES FROM YOUR GARDEN OR Paddock FOR TESTING ON THE DAY

MORE DETAILS TO COME. STAY UP TO DATE ON THE SAAL WEBSITE & OUR FACEBOOK PAGE



MINNIE 'MOOKA BUSH BASH

SEPTEMBER 10TH
ANDAMOOKA COMMUNITY HALL
LIVE MUSIC! BY **JUST MATES**
MUSIC FROM THE 50'S, 60'S, 70'S

TICKETS \$10 AVAILABLE @ TOWN OFFICE & ONLINE
BOOKING FEES APPLY. CHILDREN UNDER 15 FREE.

BBQ & LICENSED BAR FROM 6PM

COMMUNITY BUS AVAILABLE. RETURN TRIPS FROM ROXBY DOWNS TO ANDAMOOKA. BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL. GOLD COIN DONATION. ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE.

FUNDRAISER FOR THE
MINNIE BERRINGTON PROJECT!



Just
MATES
The Band
Ph: 0427 972 818



Help shape the future of the Lake Eyre Basin

Have your say

The draft Lake Eyre Basin Strategic Plan is designed to protect and manage the resource.

Do you see yourself in the plan?

The Lake Eyre Basin team wants to hear from people living and working in the basin communities about the draft plan.

- Are there any gaps?
- Is the balance between protecting and managing the basin right?
- Will this plan help us protect, enhance and sustain the Lake Eyre Basin?

You can respond to these questions as part of the public consultation process.

Consultation is open until 3 November



Read the plan and have your say at

<https://haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/lake-eyre-basin>



Contact Community Landscape Officers Charlie Eager on 0437 765 792 or Hamish Longbottom on 0408 807 498 or the board office on 8648 5307 to discuss your response.

WOMENS HEALTH DAY

30TH September
at the Community Church
10am to 2pm

Information on:

- Menopause
- Cervical Screening
- Incontinence
- Breast health

Bingo, game show, word games

Pampering Hand massages

light lunch provided

Make a bath bomb

Photo booth

Fabulous prizes To be won including BBQ, gift vouchers

Come along and have some fun and learn some new information

THE CREATIVE CORNER

SHOWCASING LOCAL ARTISTS

GO WITH THE FLOW

SALA FESTIVAL 2022



SALA was back with a bang in 2022.

With over a 100 wondrous works from 19 of our talented local artists, the hall is ablaze with colour and passion for this years **South Australian Living Artists Festival**.

A wide assortment of mediums and skill levels are on display. From acrylic paintings, textiles and pencil sketches to metal, wood, and clay sculptures, and many others in-between.

Works were available for purchase. Transactions were handled through the Dine-A-Mite Café.

SALA was dismantled on the 3rd of September and in its place, new exhibitions which will be ongoing either themed or featuring individual artists and crafters.

So, drop by the Andamooka Hall, grab a refreshment at the café and journey through the diverse collection of work on display from some amazing locals.

- Emma Morris



Andamooka Community Hall
Lot 281, School Rd, Andamooka
0475 251 662

605

Arty Andamooka

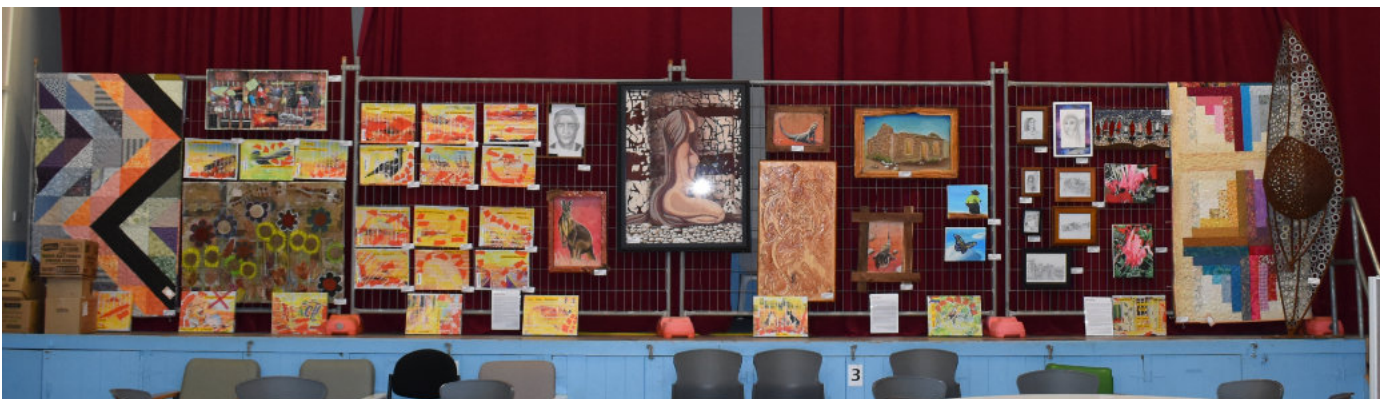
Bill ADDINGTON, Mary AMES, Harley ARMSTRONG, June Isobel CARMEN, Trish CURNOW, Heather GORDON, Beck HANOLD, Ethan HANOLD, Ronel HOWE, Talana JACKSON, Oliva NEWELL, Michael PETKOVIC, Ben ROBERTS, Erin ROBERTS, Jasmin ROBERTS, Sandy SAMUELS, Elizabeth SCHULZ, Ally SMOKER, Necrosis The Dark

Go with the Flow

Delve into, and discover the diverse wellspring of creativity that is the Andamooka artistic community.

3 Aug-4 Sep

Wed-Sun 9am-2pm, Fri 5-8pm



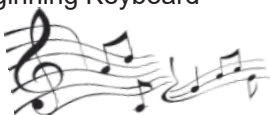
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- Group Mixed Instruments
- Group Guitar
- Beginning Keyboard

Fee: \$15 / 30 Minutes

Concession for groups
Adults welcome



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SHARE YOUR ART IN THE CREATIVE CORNER

Come share your work and creativity with the community, and get your art showcased here. We're always on the look out for creative talents, whether it's painting, drawing, sculpting, metal, wood, opal, or anything really, we'd love to hear from you.

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 Join Us On Facebook:

@ARTYANDAMOOKA



LAPIDARY WORKSHOP

OPENING HOURS:
SATURDAYS, 10AM - 2PM SUNDAYS, 12PM - 4PM



ANDAMOOKA LIFE

HEALTH, WEALTH... & HAPPINESS – go hand in hand...

Wellbeing is the term generally applied to individuals and communities as the major goal to achieve when developing community lifestyle programs, services and connections.

When these three vital elements are functioning well, serving the needs of communities, with opportunities built into them for personal development, social connections, skills development and the chance for earning financial returns, and essentially enjoyment, then you will find wellbeing....

When there is a sense of wellbeing, people tend to be healthier, both physically and mentally, also to have a sense of purpose and place, and some may be working towards supplementing their income, or developing a career, so in general they are happier and more socially inclined.

To help the community build and run community programs, services and connections is a core purpose and value of APOMA. The committee and town office workers have been busy putting in place the foundations to develop core community programs which will assist with meeting the needs of core groups within the community, and, in turn offering the opportunities for those groups to develop and nurture wellbeing...

Let's individually look at our core programs which are currently under development ... but in recognising that they are anything but mutually exclusive – you will see that they interact with and support each other...

Andamooka Lapidary Program – this successful program, managed by volunteers, has become a model for other community groups to follow... and it is well along the way towards achieving the goals it set out in terms of reviving interest in opal mining, cutting and polishing, and in gems and stones of all types, and jewellery design and making.

However, the program's most beneficial achievement for the community is that it has created a place for social connection – a productive and happy place for people to meet, connect, share skills and simply enjoy what they are doing. The bonus is learning and honing the skills of lapidary and jewellery making.

This program has a primary coordinator who is supported by a core group of 'lap group' members, with support from the town office including grant assistance and facility and equipment development and maintenance. Thanks to the dedication of the core group, this approach works!!! It is a model that is being used for getting other community programs up and running.

Andamooka Community Gardens Program – this program is developing under the care of a program coordinator and a small but very enthusiastic team, and although currently focused on the Hub gardens, and these are looking good.

The gardens program has endless opportunities, including producing fresh fruit and vegetables for the community. The gardens team welcome anyone who would like to join the quest to build a productive and attractive outdoor environment for the community to enjoy...

Andamooka Collective – development of this emerging group is being led by a team of local artists who are dedicated to promoting Andamooka as an artist's destination full of vibrancy, with regular exhibits and workshops, and places for artists and artisans to display and sell their wares. SALA is the primary annual event for the group and many of those artists are forming the Collective to have regular exhibits, pop-up stalls and collective internet sales, and enjoying the benefits of a cooperative approach.

The Hub offers so many opportunities and the new Andamooka Community Shop and Information Centre, based in the Community Hall Complex will combine aspects that will grow to support the Collective, service the town and provide income opportunities for many Andamookans.

Andamooka Community Shed – this program will be integral to the new Andamooka Skills Training Centre, located in the Recreation Precinct. Offering a range of opportunities for sharing casual skills with more formal skills development for job readiness. It will encompass 'Men's Shed' style Community Shed activities, as well as offer access to a range of equipment that can be utilized by community members to assist them with building cottage industry within the town and to make an income. There are a number of skilled locals who have put their hands up to assist locals to learn skills and try their hand at metal and wood work, mosaics and working with fabrics.

HOWEVER... all of this can only happen if we get 'bums on seats'... It relies on members of our community stepping out of their isolated Covid bubbles and getting back to a happier, healthier life and joining in with others to make these programs work – offer their skills and share them with others.

EVERYONE IS VALUABLE... *You don't need to be skilled, just enthusiastic* and happy to volunteer a couple of hours a week, which will make a massive difference to a program's success, and in turn foster community wellbeing. Your personal wellbeing will benefit too...

SO.. we put this question to the community...WHAT'S IT TO BE? - do we continue to limp along with wish lists and ideas? OR.. do we put in a bit of time and effort to assist with or to simply participate in community programs... and make them happen?



ANDAMOOKA OBSERVATORY

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RE-BUILDING COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AFTER COVID...

Three other critical community programs which have been affected badly by Covid across the past two years, but which are about to resume activities in their new greatly improved facilities are the:

Andamooka Seniors Program – Seniors have new quarters at the renovated 'The Church Community Centre'. The RFDS will be visiting regularly and will be running a series of health information and activity days for seniors and other interested residents. Seniors will have more freedom to meet casually any day of the week, or in planned groups for a much broader range of activities, or to simply a catch-up with friends over a cuppa...

Andamooka Youth Program – the new facilities at the Recreation, Sport and Youth Centre offer so much more for youth. They finally have an all-weather sports court, and with plans to develop a media centre within this complex, there is real opportunities for youth to develop skills across media and technology. The new training centre will be located adjacent to the 'Rec Centre' and that will open new and greater opportunities for youth skills development, work readiness, and art based activities.

Andamooka Families Program – this is a program that has struggled to get started. It is a critical need for our community, but has suffered from lack of governments support and 'a place'... So with the completion of several new community facilities, there is a real chance for a program offering opportunities for a range of activities for families ranging from early learning through to sports and music. Importantly it will offer the chance for greater social and cross generational interaction and more opportunities for local support programs. We are seeking interest from community members to help coordinate activities within this program.

SO C'MON...GET OUT AND ABOUT & LET'S ALL HELP TO BRING OUR TOWN BACK TO LIFE!!!!



ANDAMOOKA YOUTH GROUP

After School Activities

Come down on Friday's to the Andamooka Sporting And Youth Recreation Centre

5.00pm - 7.00pm
For 10yrs - 17yrs

Saturday's Activities

Come down to the Andamooka Sporting And Youth Recreation Centre

2.00pm - 5.00pm
For 13yrs - 17yrs

For more information please contact Youth Coordinator on 0476298992

GOLD COIN DONATION FOR A BOTTLE WATER

CASUAL POSITIONS - YOUTH WORKERS

Offered as casual paid positions working within a team to manage and deliver the Andamooka Youth Program. Hours will be flexible working to a monthly schedule.

Please lodge your interest with the Town Office via email to admin1@apoma.com.au, or at the Town Office.

Copies of the job description available.

Wanted Dead or Alive!

Do you have an old Land Rover taking up space in a shed or garden? I'm looking for early Land Rovers for restoration. Any models will be considered and I don't mind if they are non-runners and not in brilliant shape - anything considered and I am willing to pay top prices for the right vehicles.

Please get in touch with photos either by text: 0488109158 or email: jack@jackoliverdobson.com





POLICE REPORT



On the 27th of June police attended an address on Jim Shaw Drive in relation to a disturbance. A 38 year old male from Andamooka was arrested for aggravated assault and property damage, and has been remanded. Police take a zero tolerance response to domestic violence, and anyone experiencing this behaviour can contact 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732) for support and advice if you are not comfortable speaking with police.

Police are aware of increased drug activity in the area, and have been stopping a number of vehicles travelling through the town. Police have stopped vehicles seen coming from addresses on Hallion Hill Road which have been searched and small amounts of drugs and drug paraphernalia found. If anyone has any information on the above matters, they are asked to contact the Roxby Downs police station on 8671 4200, or if you wish to remain anonymous please contact Crime-stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Unfortunately this will be the last time writing for the Andamooka Press. My family and I have now moved to the Yorke Peninsula where I am now working at the Stansbury Police Station. I was unable to get around and say goodbye to everyone as I would have liked. I loved my time in Andamooka and believe that this was the best place I have lived and worked, and would like to thank everyone in town for their kindness, helpfulness and hospitality over the eight years I spent working in the area. Please make sure that if you're down this way you stop in and say hello, and have a cup of coffee.

Thank you
Brevet Sergeant Tristan Fantinel
Stansbury Police Station
South Australia Police
88524205




Eddie Hughes MP
Member for Giles
My office can help with issues related to services provided by the State Government.

PO Box 2476 Whyalla Norrie 5608
Phone 8645 7800 Fax 8645 0713
Email giles@parliament.sa.gov.au
f Eddie Hughes MP

Andamooka Health Service

Lot 33 Hospital Rd, Andamooka

Attended by: Anne, Bec & Verlaine

Opening Hours:

Monday/Tuesday	9am - 1pm → 2pm - 5pm
Wednesday	9am - 1pm In Roxby 2pm - 5pm
Thursday/Friday	9am - 1pm → 2pm - 5pm
Saturday/Sunday	Closed

Closed 1pm to 2pm for Lunch on all days

Ph: (08) 8672 7087 Email: andamooka@flyingdoctor.net

After hours calls will be redirected to the RFDS

24/7 MEDICAL ASSISTANCE (in Outback SA)

Ask to speak with the on-call RFDS Doctor

1800 RFDS SA

1800 733 772

HF Radio
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Ambulance services are expensive. For a modest annual investment you can take out comprehensive ambulance cover, or cover for non-emergency services to top up your medical benefit arrangements.

Contact: SA Ambulance Ph: 1300 13 62 72
or visit: www.saambulance.com.au

Do you know where your cat is at night?

Lock it up

For its own protection & for the protection of our native fauna.
Have your cat microchipped, de-sexed & immunised.



Health
Flinders and Upper North
Local Health Network

OFFICIAL

FUNLHN COVID-19 Vaccination Bookings

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2022

Below is a list of dates and times available at Port Augusta, Whyalla and Roxby Downs for August/September 2022:

PORT AUGUSTA

- Thursday, 25 August, 10.00am – 6.00pm
- Wednesday, 31 August, 10.00am – 6.00pm
- Thursday, 1 September, 9.00am – 5.00pm
- Tuesday, 6 September, 9.00am – 5.00pm
- Thursday, 15 September, 10.00am – 6.00pm
- Monday, 19 September, 10.00am – 6.00pm
- Tuesday, 20 September, 9.00am – 5.00pm

To book: visit <https://bit.ly/3bi5rZM>, or call (08) 8668 7646.

WHYALLA

- Friday, 26 August, 9.00am – 5.00pm
- Monday, 29 August, 10.00am – 6.00pm
- Tuesday, 30 August, 9.00am – 5.00pm
- Wednesday, 7 September, 9.00am – 5.00pm
- Friday 16 September, 9.00am – 5.00pm
- Wednesday 21 September, 10.00am – 6.00pm
- Thursday 22 September, 9.00am – 5.00pm

To book: visit <https://bit.ly/3bi5rZM>, or call (08) 8647 8660.

ROXBY DOWNS

- Thursday, 8 September, 12.00pm – 5.00pm
- Friday, 9 September, 9.00am – 3.00pm

To book: visit <https://bit.ly/3bi5rZM>, or call (08) 8668 7646.

Andamooka Primary School

Andamooka Children's Centre
for Early Childhood Development and Parenting

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Visit: www.andamooka.sa.edu.au
Phone: (08) 86727018

Andamooka Primary School and Children's Centre are taking enrolments now. Do you think your child would thrive in a smaller setting? We have excellent resources, small classes and experienced, passionate educators.

ANDAMOOKA COMMUNITY LIBRARY

CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Due to COVID Safe Guidelines - Sorry for the Inconvenience

SERVICES AVAILABLE THROUGH SA LIBRARIES ONLINE

LOOK OUT FOR SNAKES

Hot weather has brought out snakes & lizards so watch out for these creatures and make sure that you know what to do in the event of a snake bite.

This region is home to potentially deadly venomous snakes including the dark skinned Mulga and the Western Brown variations of which may be orange with a black head, or yellow head with greenish body, some have black bands. Don't confuse this with the harmless Desert Banded Snake which grows to only 40cm long, or the Ringed Brown which is venomous but not dangerous, growing up to 60cm.

A good practice is to keep a large, firm pressure bandage at hand in your car and home.

Call 000 for emergencies

Step up. Stay COVID-safe.

GET TESTED & STAY HOME IF UNWELL

That means if you have:

- fever or chills
- cough or sore throat
- loss of taste or smell
- or any other COVID-19 symptoms.

For reminders on what to do: StopTheSpread.sa.gov.au

Government of South Australia
SA Health

FIGHT the BITE

COVER UP. REPEL. ELIMINATE.

RISKS	PREVENTION
<p>MOSQUITOES CAN SPREAD SERIOUS DISEASE</p>	<p>1 WAY TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY: AVOID BEING BITTEN</p>
<p>20+ SPECIES OF MOZZIE FOUND IN SA</p>	<p>COVER UP: WEAR LONG, LOOSE FITTING CLOTHING</p>
<p>2 MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASES COMMON IN SA</p>	<p>REPEL: USE INSECT REPELLENT</p>
<p>0 CURES OR VACCINES FOR ROSS RIVER AND BARMAN FOREST VIRUS</p>	<p>ELIMINATE: THE WATER THEY BREED IN</p>

www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/fightthebite

Australian Government

Ph: 1800 200 422
www.myagedcare.gov.au

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

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7 DAYS A WEEK

ANDAMOOKA POST OFFICE

9am-5pm weekdays

&

11am-3pm weekends

For further assistance or information on the procedure contact:

Ashley Wood, Acting Registrar,

Opal Field Program .

Ph: 08 8678 9058

Email: ashley.wood@sa.gov.au

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SES: Stefan Bilka 0427 181 752

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Federal Member for Grey

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GENESIS

- BY WAYNE DRIES

Before discussing the fact and fiction of local history it's prudent to recognise that this is post European settlement and acknowledge the fact that the indigenous people of this region were leaving little more than footprints for thousands of years before Andamooka had a history.

The genesis of the community which developed in Andamooka in the 1930's was really just a by-product of peoples quest for opal. It's doubtful that the early miners initially gave much thought to the viability of a permanent settlement, and probably didn't think much beyond their immediate needs, which were basic and essential, food, clothing and water, shelter generally depended on the ingenuity of the miner.

As it turns out however, a community and town did develop in that order, but dating the chain of events leading up to it has always been problematic.

There are good reasons for this, firstly, the station manager Bruce Foulis was well aware of the strain a rush of optimistic opal miners would put on the stations already meagre water supplies intended for the stock. This explains the veil of secrecy put over the find. Alan Treloar explains the decision. "As we had 3,000 sheep out on that end of the run Mr Foulis sent Paddy and myself out to look after the sheep and look for opal in our spare time. Anything found to be shared between the three of us Mr Foulis as silent partner."

Secondly, there were only 10 people, all connected to The Andamooka Pastoral Station, around at the time to be in a position to comment. Of these, five left first hand accounts of the first arrivals from Coober Pedy, and although the accounts vary somewhat, we can still paint a picture of events leading up to settlement, the time period however remains a mystery because nobody seems to have thought to date anything.

Of the five accounts given, Rose Brooks's was signed in March 1989, approximately 55 years after the events in question. Oxy Nugents' was given in 1975, a few months before his death, 41 years later. Jean Nugents account was later still, because it was written after Oxy had passed away. Nancy Ross (maiden name Foulis) was the managers daughter. Her account was given in June 1996, 62 years later.

Only Alan Treloars account was given while still working in the region, written while working at Purple Downs Station. He was also the book-keeper for Andamooka Station so should have been accustomed to recording factual information. For these reasons it is his version of events that has been most heavily relied upon for the writing of this article, though the others are naturally afforded consideration.

It is a generally accepted fact that the floater in question was picked up in August 1930, the 29th is the date most often given. While there are no guarantees that this was the first time opal had been spotted in the vicinity, there can be no doubt that it was this find, that set in motion a chain of events that led to the field being developed.

It is recorded that Sam Brooks showed the floater to Bruce Foulis when he next visited the homestead, this would put the time period into September 1930. Foulis inspected the site of the find on One Tree Hill with Paddy Evans and more opal traces in the form of floaters were found on the spot.

As already mentioned, Treloar and Evans were instructed to further prospect the region. Sam Brooks tried a bit of ground, found nothing and went back to dam sinking. Treloar and Evans stuck to the game plan and towards the end of 1930 the level had been recognized and the search for opal began in earnest. Alan Treloar continues, "Paddy and I worked on and off for about 2 years without anyone coming near us, I used to go in once a fortnight for rations on horseback and take a pack-horse, and as I was the station book-keeper, I used to get them up to date and ride back by horse 25 miles each way."

Oxy Nugent stated in his interview that secrets were kept for quite some time, and Nancy Ross explained "The discovery of opal on One Tree Hill was kept quiet for some time because of lack of water."

If Alan Treloars 2 year time period is correct, the time period gets pushed forward to late 1932, ruling out the 1931 time frame. Keeping secrets, especially where opal is concerned is a tricky business, and it was inevitable that word of the find would eventually get out.

Of the 5 informants we have, Nancy Ross makes no comment on who was responsible, Rose Brooks recalls a boundary rider being the culprit, while Alan Treloar, Oxy and Jean Nugent unashamedly name Paddy Evans, adding that an excessive consumption of alcohol was involved, surprise, surprise. Alan Treloar "As to what I heard when he was down he whispered in the ear of the local priest amongst others and about 4 of the Port Augusta adventurers hot footed it up, loaded with equipment to have a go."

Rose Brooks claimed 5 men arrived but didn't name them. Oxy Nugent claimed 4 men arrived and named them as George Scharenberg, Val Lethbridge, Kim Stevens and Ern Bothwell. Jean Nugent also supports the 4 men version, but names George Taylor, not Kim Stevens as one of the four.

The 4 possibly 5 men arrived at the homestead and were met by Bruce Foulis. Oxy Nugent tells what transpired, "...you leave your car here and I will deliver your mail and rations and whatever else you need until you explore the place properly."

Alan Treloar adds, "...they contacted Mr Foulis and he agreed to show them the place provided I was to work with them and receive an equal share of the findings to be split. They stopped for about 3 months and we all worked like slaves, sank holes all over the place, found little opal but they wore themselves out and went back to the Port, our syndicate bought what opal they had for 50 pounds. Later opal was found all round their workings, they were in too much of a hurry looking for a fortune."

Oxy Nugent also stated they stayed for about 3 months. If the information given thus far is correct, the arrival and departure of the Port Augusta miners pushes the time zone into 1933 and coincides with rumours beginning to circulate around Coober Pedy of a newly discovered opal field in the state.

Finding the order in which the first Coober Pedy miners arrived in Andamooka, isn't difficult, they are almost unanimously recorded in several references. The first to arrive were Albert Wainwright and George Claughton, who arrived from the north of the field with a string of four camels. The next three to arrive about one week later were Bill Hallion, Minnie Berrington and George Malycha, who arrived via the homestead. After that, it depends on who's account you read.

By dating the arrival of one of those five, we should be able to verify the required time period, and the rest, as they say, is history. Bill Hallion and George Malycha left no known account of their arrival here, nor did George Claughton though Minnie recalls him passing through Coober Pedy with a string of camels a year or so before his arrival in Andamooka. Albert Wainwright left no known account, but was placed in Laverton Western Australia during the Easter period of 1932 by Tom Ryan, one of the early Coober Pedy miners. He was, according to Tom, part of a six man gold prospecting party equipped with over a dozen camels.

This is where Minnie Berrington's literary legacy comes into it's own. Her newspaper and magazine articles were written while she was living and working on the fields and her book 'Stones of Fire' is a more detailed reflection of the same period. Though not intended as a history book, it is by default the best first hand reference relating to the early history of both Coober Pedy and Andamooka available. The down side of it not being intended as a history book is that once again it is bereft of dates and time periods.

In his book "Opal Men", which was intended as a history book, Vin Wake makes the comment of Minnie Berrington's book 'Stones of Fire', that "it's value is marred" by her use of psuedonyms. It could be argued that it's author was mindful of the privacy of the individuals involved, as was her nature. In any case, Mr Wake's opinion didn't deter him from using much of Minnie's information from that time period for his own book, much of it suspiciously re-worded.

There was a method to Minnie's choice of psuedonyms as if providing clues for anybody prepared to look for them. For those reading her book, the following list may be of some assistance in the Andamooka portion of it. Eleven of the seventeen people named were ex- Coober Pedy miners.

Mac-----Bill Hallion

Frank Woodlock-----George Malycha

Mr + Mrs Westway-----Oxy + Jean Nugent

Mr + Mrs Rivers-----Sam + Rose Brooks

Steve Cartwright-----Albert Wainwright

Ted Lawton-----George Claughton

Frank Burton-----Francis Albertoni

Albert Burton-----Andrew Albertoni

Mr + Mrs Anderson-----Andy + Joyce Absalom

Denny Bevan-----Paddy Evans

Mr + Mrs Perran-----Jim + May Perry

Mr + Mrs Daleman-----Jack + Flo Hillman

Because events in 'Stones of Fire' aren't dated our only option is to track Minnie's movements leading up to her arrival in Andamooka by dated information from other sources. For example, we know she was in Coober Pedy in late 1932. An interview with Ernestine Hill appeared in the Sunday Sun and Guardian on 7th August 1932. Of her articles written for the Adelaide Chronicle, two were published late in the year, Soap Making In a Tent, on 17th November 1932, and Yuletide in Coober Pedy on 8th December 1932. In the last article Minnie comments "I think Christmas falls on a Sunday-that's lucky being also mail day." Christmas Day did fall on a Sunday in 1932, confirming it was penned the year it was published.

We know Minnie was still in Coober Pedy in early 1933, her name appears on the electoral role dated 11th January 1933. Almost three months later after a stint of mining with her brother Victor at the 5 mile field, and a week long visit to Port Augusta to have an eye injury treated, she went into a mining partnership with Bill Hallion. This is confirmed by the Miners Rights Register showing they were both issued Rights on the 3rd April 1933 at Coober Pedy. Bill Hallion receiving Right No- 5844 and Minnie Berrington Right No- 5845. The formation of this partnership is mentioned in her book, "The utility allowed me to range further afield than if I'd had to walk, and Mac (Bill Hallion), who was on the move like everyone else, came into partnership with me to try some of the surrounding workings."

We now have two sources of information, both Minnie Berrington's, her book and the April 1937 edition of the British monthly magazine The Wide World, both give accounts of this period. In the magazine article she states they worked, Specimen Hill, The Company's and the Crater. In her book she includes Black Point and The Jungle, adding "in fact, to most of the outside workings except the really distant ones." Of Minnie Berrington's two references, The Wide World article gives a detailed account of a following trip to Adelaide, but doesn't note the time of year. Her book merely mentions that she made the trip, but gives the time of year the trip was made, "Christmas was near again" and then, "Thinking that a short holiday might change my luck, I joined the little flow of southward bound travellers." Before she left, she mentions, "For some time there had been a persistent rumour of a mysterious new opal field in South Australia."

Reading her book the impression taken is that she and Bill Hallion learnt the exact whereabouts of the new field upon her return to Coober Pedy a few weeks later. In The Wide World article she claims that they learnt of the new field on the way to Adelaide between Kingoonya and Port Augusta. Jean Nugent claims they learnt the location from a jewellers shop in Gawler Place, Adelaide. In the magazine article she reveals, "Our informant told us exactly where the place lay, but swore us to secrecy concerning the source of our information." Respect for her sources request for anonymity could explain the conflicting accounts, and who could blame her?

Which ever was the case, it's now January 1934 and both she and Bill Hallion know where the mysterious new field is located, while the rest of Coober Pedy's population speculate. From her Wide World article, "The old-timers were already busy with guesses- and some of them came very near the mark! About two years previously, they recalled a buyer had written to someone at Coober Pedy stating that he had purchased opal found on a station called Andamooka." This would have been Ernie Sherman. According to his son Greg, his father met Alan Treloar at the boundary riders hut in Andamooka and purchased opal from him in 1932. This information also puts our time line very near the mark.

Being the adventurous individual she was, and by now a seasoned “opal digger” after 7 years on the field, trying out a “secret field” was always going to be an irresistible temptation. Bill Hallion was equally enthusiastic. Firstly however practical matter needed to be considered and preparations made.

From her book, “There was a Mr Woodlock (George Malycha) of Coober Pedy. He liked prospecting and he had a large truck. When he heard our inside information, he elected to come too.” The preparations for their trip were completed. “In less than a week the fully loaded utility and equally well loaded truck started on the trip to Andamooka.”

This should put their departure time to around mid to late January 1934, and even allowing them a full week to make the trip, they should likely have arrived by the end of that month, early February at the latest. From the best of the information provided to date, it seems reasonable to suggest their arrival time to be around late January to early February 1934. Albert Wainwright and George Cloughton arrived the week before, making late January 1934 the most plausible time period for the arrival of the first of the Coober Pedy miners.

The Miners Rights Register records Minnie Berrington receiving Right No- 4326 on 26th February 1934. Bill Hallion was issued Right No- 4325 on the same day. George Malycha was issued Right No- 6211 on the 14th February 1934. All were issued from non-Coober Pedy registry offices confirming all three had arrived by that time. The electoral role for the 2nd July 1934 records Minnie Berrington being in Andamooka via Pimba, occupation, prospector.

Now! When did a community begin to evolve? Assuming that five people make a community, necessity would dictate the need for joint decisions being made for the good of all, thankfully Minnie Berrington records that moment. “That same weekend, we five prospectors gathered together to discuss the problem of supplies and mail. Each of us knew that we were up against a real difficulty in replenishing our provisions as we used them.”

The nearest we could place that moment, would be end of January, early February 1934.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Minnie Berrington- For her literary legacy and her efforts. The town was possibly as grateful for her input while she was in Andamooka, as we have been dependant on it in tracing our history through her actions. If only she knew.

Lorna Cameron- Whose willingness to share verbal accounts of her early years in Andamooka come faster, and for longer than the average brain is capable of processing.

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Lara Lukich- For initiating The Minnie Berrington Project, and linking up minds to share their knowledge.

Brian Tansell- For letting Minnie Berrington know in her life-time that she hadn’t been forgotten by the people of Andamooka.

Stuart Wattison- Stuarts research into Minnie Berrington’s life has been invaluable to this article. The information provided by him from Mining Registry records to Electoral Roles and a myriad of other sources have allowed us to verify and date, not only Minnie’s journey but also that of her companions. Thank you Stuart, we owe you a debt of gratitude.

FOOTNOTE:

Since writing this article new information has necessitated this footnote.

Stuart Wattison believes the four miners from Port Augusta were George Scharenberg, Val Lethbridge, Timothy McInerney and Earn Bothwell, and that they were granted Miners Rights on the 30/7/1931, which casts doubt on Alan Treloars 2 year time frame. Also what was, the Wharf Hotel, now Hotel Augusta was the likely pub at which the news leaked out. Typically Stuart had provided evidence which supports this view.

Jenny Davison of Coober Pedy has also gratefully provided much information about Albert Wainwright including an article from the Western Argus dated Tuesday 7th April 1931 which indicates Tom Ryan was one year out with his dates. Albert Wainwright was in Laverton in the Easter of 1931 not 1932. While this new information doesn’t alter the date of settlement it does plug a few holes in our history and emphasises the importance of a traceable time period through Minnie Berrington.