

### UP-COMING EVENTS

◆ **15th December:**  
**Wacky Wednesday**  
**Christmas Lunch**

◆ **19th December:**  
**Lapidary Christmas**  
End of Year Break-Up  
BYO Beverages to share  
at the end of the session  
- *Lap Shed closed from  
20th Dec to TBA 2022*

◆ **26th January:**  
**Australia Day**

**Please Be Advised:**  
Due to the ongoing spread  
of COVID-19, events may be  
cancelled or postponed.

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Header: Inside the Bottlehouse.

Source: Sally Grundy Photography

### RIDING THE HEAT WAVE

I love the hot summers. But you forget, don't you? You forget just how hot and long the summers are. There you are cruising through winter with not a care in the world. Spring comes and goes in a flash. We have had some beautiful days this year. Short days that are calm, warm and very easy on the mind. Thank God it's not summer yet, but for the most part you forget just how cruel and unrelenting the summer heat can be.

So, you make sure you have good air conditioning. You move your plants around the house to get them out of direct sunlight. You start to get into the habit of taking afternoon siestas. As the season progresses the nights turn magic. The days into something to avoid if you can. The old timers would work underground and get some relief from the heat that way. The new chums learn the ropes and how to survive in comfort; some others beat it to the coast for a few months. That's the way it goes.

If you look at it another way the hot weather is a blessing. All that free energy from the sun beating down, even in winter. Now BHP has gone green the possibilities start to open up. Apparently they are set to buy a lot of renewable energy from Port Augusta to lessen their reliance on the State Grid. They seemed to have learnt the lesson from that terrible wind

that downed the main connector in the mid north and froze the smelters mid pour. It cost a lot of money to fix. They haven't forgot that.

A grid that spreads the risk over a geographically diverse catchment is a more stable grid. Maybe now is the time to move to reengineer our micro-grid and transition away from gas fired generators. Andamooka workers could be involved in construction and ongoing maintenance of a respectably sized solar farm.

We know that gas prices are only going to move one way, and that is up. The Andamooka Power Station has served us well. Are they ready to move with the times and transition to renewables? Or do they need incentives? They have always been up front and honest with me. I sought permission to put a 3.5 KW solar farm on my roof and it shaved more than a third off my quarterly bill. Three industrial batteries allow me to run the split system for free during the day. The investment will pay for itself in approximately 8 years but I can't sell any excess electricity to the grid. That will need community wide engineering fix. It's not hard to do. The Lyons family and others have built a robust network of poles and wires on which we can build. A community wide micro-grid with feed in capabilities will mean cheaper power for all.

Every roof would become a resource and pensioners' roofs are as good as anyone's. Later a town battery and solar farm could underwrite Andamooka's proud history of independence (if not defiance) and stave off the need to put in a connector to the State Grid. If being independent and proud is what we want to do.

- Rodney Mitchell



JOIN IN THE CELEBRATIONS AT  
THE ANDAMOOKA

## Australia Day BREAKFAST BBQ

**JANUARY 26TH**  
**ANDAMOOKA COMMUNITY HALL**  
**FROM 8:30AM TO 11:00AM**



AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS  
PRIZES & GIVEAWAYS  
SPLASH PAD

Is this the future for Andamooka? More on this in the next edition...



## 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

*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](http://www.andamooka.sa.au)

**APOMA 2020 memberships  
lapsed end of March 2021.**

*To make your vote count, please  
make sure that you have paid-up  
your 2021 membership fees.*

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

BSB:085 896 Acc: 2425 11591

## ANDAMOOKA PROGRESS AND OPAL MINERS ASSOCIATION INC.

Here we are welcoming the silly season and preparing to look forward to 2022. What a year it has been, this community has been united through challenging times through out this year, many have said 'until we meet again' to friends and loved ones and characters who made Andamooka special. One of these special residents we recently farewelled was Staffy, there will be a full-page tribute to Staffy in our next edition, we are asking the community for contributions i.e., small stories, memories and photos. We remembered many people at the annual 'All souls night', thank you to the Sach family for making this event happen for the community every year. Joseph Sach would like to make a special mention to Richard Hawkins for all his efforts.

Dine-a-mite Café staff are having a well-deserved Christmas break, closing from 2pm on Sunday the 19th of Dec and re-opening shortly after or on Australia Day, TBA. We thank them for a wonderful year and wish them a very merry Christmas.

Reminder that Australia Day nomination forms are available from the Post office, APOMA office or via email.

We would like to remind everyone that over the summer period, that there are ways we can help you. We have some amazing staff at our RFDS hospital who have shared concern about residents not using cooling in their homes due to the prohibitive costs. We have found that there are quite a few concessions available through the SA Government, if you are eligible, ALL concessions are possible to be claimed. That means summer can be more bearable and you could have money back in your pocket. Most of the concessions are available to people claiming Centrelink payments, the forms must be completed and submitted by 31/12/2021 to be valid for this financial year. If you need help to see if you qualify or with filling out the forms, please let someone at the hospital or the town office know, we want all our residents to be safe and comfortable.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays Andamooka, I'm looking forward to the town kicking off a wonderful new year.

- *Olivia Newell*

### Energy Bill Concessions - Online Application Form

Eligible South Australians on low or fixed incomes can apply for help with costs of energy bills for their principle place of residence. You will need your Centrelink Customer References Number (CRN) or DVA File Number, and details from your current energy bill.

[www.sa.gov.au/topics/care-and-support/concessions-and-grants/concessions](http://www.sa.gov.au/topics/care-and-support/concessions-and-grants/concessions)

### NEW RECREATION CENTRE OPEN FOR CASUAL USE OVER SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Great news for Kids, Youth, Families and others. Thanks to Youth Coordinator, Donna Waters, and committee member, Rodney Mitchell, the air-conditioned indoor sports court will be open for casual use by arrangement under supervision of a responsible person who will make themselves available to open up and generally supervise groups using the facility over the holiday period.

Donna will also make herself available after Christmas to youth and families to supervise casual use of the youth space – for games, movies and table tennis etc. This offers children, youth and families airconditioned indoor space for social entertainment during hot weather.

Please call Donna on **0476 298 992** to discuss a time.

## Andamooka Opal Festival Raffle



All proceeds from raffle sales go directly to 'The Minnie Berrington Project' to support the making for our documentary & 'The Trail of Minnie.'

#### 1st Prize :

Rough Andamooka Opal parcel, kindly donated by local miners. **Valued at \$3590** \*including certification.

**2nd Prize :** Sterling silver, Coober Pedy crystal opal inlaid hoop earrings, kindly donated by former Andamooka resident, Elizabeth Lloyd of Desert Jewells. **Valued at \$900**

**3rd Prize :** Andamooka matrix parcel, cut by Kym Faehrmann **Valued at \$500**

Winners contacted by phone and published in the Andamooka Press and the Minnie Berrington Facebook page

## Ticket price : \$10

Total of 2,000 tickets available

Drawn on: 21/12/21 @5pm at the Andamooka Historic Cottages  
\*unless sold out prior



**Tickets Available @ Post Office, Cellarbrations & Online:**  
[www.theminieberringtonproject.com](http://www.theminieberringtonproject.com)

**Disclaimer:** The information presented within the Andamooka Press is intended for the Andamooka community. No liability is accepted for any unauthorised use of the information contained within this publication.

APOMA reserve the right to edit all submissions for publication in the Andamooka Press.

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# OUTCOMES – ANDAMOOKA COMMUNITY FORUM, 20 NOVEMBER 2021

## Overview:

**This forum primarily addressed the broad question from the community about “What is happening with the OCA Outback Futures Project, and how will this affect our town and residents?”. There is no doubt that there was concern and confusion resulting from the OCA presentation held on the 23rd October.**

The APOMA Committee had already expressed their concerns around proposed changes and with the process that is being undertaken by the OCA to implement change around regional management and funding. Whilst the APOMA Committee, and other regional progress associations and stakeholders agree that there is a need for change, we also agree that this needs more time and stakeholder input and discussion (not superficial consultation) to implement fundamental changes that are vital to the social and economic wellbeing of outback communities inclusive of businesses and pastoralists. Not to simply shift the goal posts with no real change to the gameplan, which is the way it appears with the rules being altered to suit which way the wind is blowing.

**At the Forum these concerns were outlined by the committee and questions raised for the community to consider at to respond to, so that the Committee could get a clear understanding of an informed position of the community, to take forward for discussion with the OCA Board, and community support to do that.**

Overall, the Forum was well attended with sound representation on the floor from local property owners, residents, local business operators, volunteer groups, community programs, seniors, families, opal miners, and service providers.

The tone of the meeting was calm and focused, and following the presentation by the APOMA Committee, feedback from the community was enquiring, constructive and supportive of what was presented to them. The community participated actively with questions and in discussion following the presentation and responded well to the call for ‘what do you think this town needs to service residents and to become vibrant and sustainable?’, and their thoughts on regional matters.

Disappointingly despite being invited with the rationale that Andamooka, having worked with a self-supporting community funded model for 10 years, could have provided valuable face to face feedback to the OCA Board to assist their consultation process, there was no representation from the OCA Board present at this forum.

**Attendance** – 50 in room / 3 via Zoom – included representatives from Marla PA and Fowlers Bay PA. Committee members: Luke Alder, Rodney Mitchell, Richard Webb via phone. 5 local businesses represented, plus volunteer coordinators from seniors’ program, youth program, and lapidary program, plus CWA/OpShop, M Berrington Project,

**Apologies:** Eddie Hughes MP Member for Giles, Rowan Ramsay MP Member for Grey, Dan van Holst Pellekaan MP Member for Stuart, Bill McIntosh Presiding Member OCA Board, Trevor Wright OCA Board Member, Ian Thompson Chair APOMA, Alison Smoker Secretary APOMA, Richard Clifford APOMA Committee Member, Heather Gordon, Oodnadatta PA, Penong PA, Marree PA, Yunta PA, William Creek.

**Chaired by:** Independent Chair, Cecilia Woolford Ex Officio advisor to the committee. Presenters: Gill Rowley Treasurer APOMA, Richard Hawkins APOMA Project Manager / Town Maintenance Manager.

**Consensus – Support for Committee :** The presentation concluded with a show of hands by community members in support for the APOMA Committee to move forward and to work in conjunction with other communities from our region to ensure that the process for change to the regional management and funding model is stakeholder inclusive and supported. Supported by All except 3 who abstained. **Against:** nil

The committee drew committee attention to an expected letter from the OCA Board delivered to letter boxes regionally in the next week. This is in response to feedback and community backlash following the round of OCA community consultations. This outlines a revised approach from the OCA Board and offers an opportunity to provide feedback by 6th December 21.

*Question from the floor as to why some property owners don’t receive these letters and notifications?* Response: The committee/office does not have privy to OCA postal lists or property owners postal or email details. Receiving notices can be assisted via the Town Office, if those people provide us an email or postal address.

*The forum ended with applause.*

# A QUEST FOR ANDAMOOKA'S FUTURE

## ANDAMOOKA TOWN PLAN – 2019-25

With the knowledge that changes were afoot for a regional funding model, the Committee recognised the need to put together a town advancement plan that would create more self-sufficiency and more productive income streams spread more broadly across all who use the Town's facilities and services – both local and outside, towards a more fair and equitable funding model.

### The Town Plan has gained steps towards:

- Creating more self-sufficiency and economic resilience for the town & community
- Developing more equity around contributing towards costs by creating new or improved income streams from facilities & programs on a user pay basis
- Developing new lifestyle attractions for residents catering to the needs of all ages and stages
- Encouraging new residents and sustainable population growth & retention – in turn retaining, improving & gaining services and local business
- Developing new visitor attractions which in turn attract greater visitor numbers & spending, in turn building business, employment, and income opportunities for locals and contributing to costs....
- Developing skills & job readiness to assist with employment and business support to better service the town and the mining industry – building lifestyle / business / tourism / population....

THERE ARE MANY MORE STEPS TO TAKE..... SO SUPPORT FROM WITHIN THE NEW OCA REGIONAL MANAGEMENT AND FUNDING MODEL WILL BE CRITICAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THIS ONGOING..

**What Is Missing In The Current Town Management Model** – is certainty, stability, & consistency around on-going funding and the level of funding. The current funding model is reliant on annual approval of the CCS placing significant pressure on the whole community for 3 months annually... *yet the OCA include retention of a CCS in their plan.*

It is also reliant on significant volunteer input for labour & skills – creating uncertainty & the risk of inconsistency – and *at worst failure... our town has come close to this before....* Despite mitigating risk with fail-safes, succession planning plus investment of additional funds to retain expert support, it relies on those working at the 'coal-front' being paid for an estimated 50% of their actual hours at 'discount prices'... *this approach does not facilitate progress....*

### How we sit in the current OCA funding model:

The town is primarily self-supporting via an uncertain avenue of primary funding collected solely from property and business property owners

- Limited joint regional arrangements offer benefits – eg insurance
- No back-up plan around on-going uncertainty with CCS & resulting anxiety year on year,
- No stability for forward planning & development,
- Substantial risk & stress for responsible persons, many of whom are volunteers,
- Lacks certainty and support for moving forward year on year...

AND IS SIMPLY NOT MAINTAINABLE IN A TOWN WHERE WE NEED MORE & WANT TO GROW.... *Andamooka is just surviving by the skin of its teeth...THERE IS A NEED FOR CHANGE.. The current funding model for Andamooka does not have sustainability.*

### OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS FOR GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

- Population growth and retention – the need for families and certainty around the school and town management,
- Servicing the community – day to day, transport, access, communication, conveniences, health services, housing....access to daily vitals.... food and commodities
- Servicing the community – wellbeing – programs and facilities for seniors, children, youth, families, sport and recreation, social spaces, events & entertainment and food outlets ...
- Skills advancement and job opportunities.... building cottage industry... job readiness...
- Local business – opportunities, personnel, support and viability – exposure..
- Tourism and visitors – services and attractions, information, services including everyday access to meals, everyday needs, events and marketing, connection with the outside world....
- A workable, fair and equitable contribution model that does not disadvantage property owners or business operators, or discourage investment in our town....
- Joint opportunities with other communities can assist with funding, savings and support

THIS MUST ALL BE CONSIDERED IN A NEW REGIONAL PLAN.... **For all communities, not just ours...**

## OUR CONCERNS WITH THE CURRENT OCA MODEL

The current model has a Board 'at the top' which is basically a powerless advisory panel of members largely put in place by government – with an arguable imbalance of local representation – both by type and overall numbers.

- It has no direct channel upwards to Federal or State Governments. It has no direct channel sideways with other government created agencies or other organisations within their jurisdiction or that 'serve' their communities.
- There is no formal direct channel of communication between the Board and their communities and little contact.
- There is no equity of representation of communities or groups

### Everything is channelled via a single point – the OCA executive.

- This means that in what-ever direction information moves between the OCA Board, Government, other agencies or organisations, or the communities – *it is subject to interpretation by basically a single controlling entity*
- Communication between communities is not assisted creating a divide and rule approach – countering an effective collective voice from the people of the region

**Therefore, there is no real control by the Board or community over what is implemented by the OCA. *Yet the OCA answer to a new management model is to have more local representation on the Board.***

### This approach puts the voice of all of the towns, communities and other stakeholders at risk of not being heard at board level,

- and even if heard, no control over how their voice is being interpreted, and then interpreted again in reports to government for them to base decisions upon that will determine our future.
- **there needs to be fundamental change at Board level** – and this needs to ensure firstly more active participation from stakeholders and communities clearly represented at board level
- and there needs to be a clear and direct line of reporting from that board to communities and to government,
- and all need clear lines of communication & accountability.

**If we are going to go through the pain of making sure as a regional community, that we do have more equitable OCA/Board representation of our outback regions, communities, cluster groups, like interest groups etc. be that by election or otherwise:**

We need to make sure, in collaboration with other communities, that first we have a regional governance model that supports a Board that is going to be effective and accessible,... A Board that is in touch with and work more in partnership with their communities so that they have clear direction for decision making on their behalf... and which has clear and direct channels of communication with Federal & State Government, and related agencies and organisations **....to effectively be a voice for us as a collaborative.... and in creating this model, they need to look at the Outback as a whole, not just at those who are under their jurisdiction.**

**This fundamental change will create more effective governance** and result in a flexible and effective management model working across the region and benefiting communities, and by working directly with their communities with respect for the skills of the people within them and collectively across the region, they will be able to develop a regional funding model that works for and not against their community.

### A FURTHER FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IS AROUND PARITY:

- Coober Pedy is in a critical state & their community is suffering...
- Andamooka is a next-door step away from where Coober Pedy is today and without well managed finances and infrastructure the situation could well be different...
- The health situation is lacking and in the APY lands it's grave – but if there was a whole of region approach to funding and to utilising outreach from key centres such as Coober Pedy, Roxby Downs and Whyalla, this could offer far more to all in the region..
- Tourism could be boosted substantially by immediate investment in a sealed outback loop.. That could attract millions in spending and investment...
- Yet.. Across in Leigh Creek the government is able to put over \$43M into a town of under 200 residents which already has substantial infrastructure in place – for what? How will this benefit the whole region?
- WHERE IS THE EQUITY IN THIS? *Apply even just a quarter of that funding to the region for urgent projects & needs and it will make a difference... 50% will create change.....*

### There is no silver bullet for finding the right solution for a more equitable funding model that we believe should:

- take the pressure OFF property owners and businesses or pastoralists, and
- not put greater pressure on them to pay for all who reside, visit, pass through or have business interests in the Outback....
- at the very real risk of discouraging investment in our region.
- and can find a way of 'spreading the load' across all users and benefactors of our region....
- and importantly can gain recognition for the true numbers this region services and the true value of the outback to the national economy.... and hence derives it's true 'share of the pie' in terms of government funding.

**This will take time, direct discussion and a partnership approach with those who are managing their communities and it must have community support. THIS IS WHAT WE ARE ASKING THE OCA FOR.....** *So with our community's support, the Committee will move forward with this quest....*

# REPORTS

## 2020-21 Financial Outcomes –

**Town Management & Projects financial branches** on budget. Small surplus in will be applied to current projects.

**Association** – on budget. Surplus of approx \$10K from income streams.

Camp ground income - record net of \$14K

## 2021-22 budget to end Sep 21

**Town Management & Projects** GST branches are working to budget

**Association** – on budget – new income streams to be introduced in 2022.

## Fundraising activities planned 2022:

- **Regular markets & pop-up market stalls** - March to October
- Regular take-away/courtyard nights 2022
- **Outdoor theatre events** – April – October (ex daylight saving)
- 2 or 3 major events – to be determined (Covid permitting)
- Encourage more **music events**
- Work with other communities on **regional events**
- **'be a tourist in your own town'** – off season activities and events for locals....

*These all assist with lifestyle and with funding programs but all are subject to volunteer help.*

## Projects & Maintenance -

- **Recreation, Sport & Youth Centre** –To officially open end Jan 22.
- **'The Church' Community Centre** – open for use end Dec 21
- **New Tourist Info Centre & Community Shop** opening in the Eastern end of the hall circa March 2022. This will also support pop-up market stalls for locals.
- **Veranda extension Lapidary Shed** – Easternwell grant - complete end Dec 21.
- **Pumptrack** – \$100K grant – location vicinity BMX track. Delivery end May 21 – groundwork post summer.

- **Mini golf & outdoor cinema/drive-in** – subject to funding.
- Prospective construction of **arts, crafts and skills development centre** extension of 'grader shed' community workshop.
- **Trails project** – including Borefield Connector & Minnie Trail/project on-going

*The Precinct principle being applied to create self-supporting programs & facilities is progressing well. This ensures that all users contribute whether local or visiting.*

## Maintenance funds will be spent over 2022 on:

- **Replacing shade sails** with hard covers
- **Upgrading the hall courtyard seating space** – greening, seating, shade.
- **Splash Pad facelift** & more seating
- Ground work at the **'grader shed' site development** – project development subject to funding
- **Cemetery** tidy up and plantings
- More **greening and landscaping at the recreation precinct** in conjunction with on-going projects including a community produce garden.

## Community Programs -

- **Seniors Program** to be expanded once relocated.
- Investigating securing local resident **community care** worker - in place to assist seniors & others in need of care – regular & occasional
- **Youth Program** to be expanded once relocated.
- Need for development of **Children's activities** – space in place at the R&S Centre
- Space also in place for wellness activities at the R&S centre, which will be complimented by arts & crafts activities at the proposed adjacent workshop.
- **Community bus** due for replacement 2023.
- Development of local **skills training / job readiness program** in discussion and subject to funding.

**APOMA welcomed Luke Alder onto the 2022 committee.**

# A BLAST FROM THE PAST:

- BY WAYNE DRIES

"The distance from Coober Pedy to Andamooka was over 350 miles. We had to go by the mail road to Kingoonya and then on the Port Augusta road to Pimba, where we branched off to the sheep station".

This was mid-summer, January 1934, along tracks through dune and gibber country, in a fully laden Austin 7 utility carrying two occupants, Minnie Berrington and Bill Hallion. Just ahead of them, George Malycha in his equally well laden truck.

At length, the two vehicles arrived at Andamooka station. Unsure of their reception Minnie explains, "Solemn and silent, the three of us walked to the verandah. A pleasant-faced man obviously the manager, rose to meet us, and Mac explained the purpose of our arrival." The manager (Bruce Foulis) assured them they "were quite at liberty to go to the workings and prospect the country if they thought it worthwhile" and informed them that two miners from Coober Pedy had arrived from the north on camels the week before, the two were, Albert Wainwright and George Claughton.

Upon their arrival at the field the following day, "we stood looking. None of us spoke. We'd wondered about it, talked and dreamt about it. Now it was there, before our eyes. No longer a rumour but an actuality. I suppose words couldn't express our thoughts at that moment." Thus was her introduction to Andamooka.

Minnie Berrington pegged her first claim at the 5 to 7 foot level on the first hill (Treloars Hill). Bill Hallion "Chose a position in deeper ground on the same hill." George Malycha pegged a claim on the second hill, sometimes referred to as Middle Hill, Saddle Hill or The Saddle. At the time of their arrival "no shaft was deeper than seven feet."

At this time, these three along with Wainwright and Claughton were the only people working the field. Weekly supplies were obtained from the station store, including a sheep to be shared weekly between the five. Mail was included in the stations mailbag, after a promise had been made to "write none but essential letters."

Six weeks passed before the next arrivals from Coober Pedy appeared, "climbing a hill toward us, came the two well-liked and reliable men, an asset to any community." The two men were Francis and Andrew Albertoni. They are credited with finding the floaters that led to German Gully being worked, originally called The New Rush. New miners arrived at more of a trickle than a rush, mostly from Coober Pedy, some stayed, some left, and some returned. For this reason it's difficult to assess an order of arrival. Andy and Joyce Absalom for example "had visited the field two or three times before they eventually decided to make a permanent move." We do know the first ten miners were referred to as "The Old Boys". Minnie Berrington was one of them, I don't think she would have objected to the reference.

The year following Minnie's arrival, Segnit's Report dated 13/9/1935 recorded 14 miners working the field, the miners had already dug their own well by that time, through the shortage of water was always the greatest deterrent to new arrivals. Eventually however, the population increased and community developed, with each member of the community fulfilling a role to benefit the whole community. Andy and Joyce Absalom "accepted responsibility for the mail bag, it was a real service to the field. To keep open house every mail night was no small thing'.

Minnie's compassionate nature is unveiled describing the scene created by those mail deliveries. "Why I don't know, but the sight of the diggers grouped around the lantern-lit pile of mail- the yellow glow on their faces as they watched the two sorters handing out letters always stirred me unaccountably. Somehow, I felt transported to the past. The atmosphere was warm and human, and the cold impersonal efficiency of a modern post office was missing. I suppose I was unprogressive, but the scene never failed to please me."

Minnie Berrington's book finishes around 1937, 1938, but her association with Andamooka continued for over a decade. She was absent from the field during The Second World War to assist the war effort as many miners did. She enlisted in August 1942 and was promoted to Corporal on the 4th January 1946, twenty years and one day after first setting foot on Australian soil. She was discharged the following month. Her abilities were noted early in her service. A note from her staff sergeant, Don Finch dated 22/5/1943 stating. "Your devotion to duty, and good work has been an inspiration to this section. I do thank you most sincerely for all you have done for me."

Minnie returned to Andamooka, and the following year, January 1947, became our first post mistress, a position she held until December 1949. She was contracted as Census collector for the year 1947 at a rate of two pounds, seventeen shillings, and sixpence per day. She issued ration cards in 1947 and 1948. She was the first issuer of Miners Rights in Andamooka being supplied Book no 79 containing 50 rights numbered 8901- 8950, being granted a commission of 5% on all Rights issued. That appointment was dated as of 6th June 1947, and she was presiding officer for the 1949 state election.

There may well have been other appointments we are not aware of, though it's already clear she was a busy woman and a great aid to the development of the town. It is generally believed Minnie Berrington left Andamooka for the last time in 1951, she would have been 53 or 54 at the time. It may have been the end of her association with Andamooka, but not the end of Minnie Berrington, her life had another half a century to run. She passed away Good Friday, 13th April 2001, aged 103 years. She lived in three centuries and two millenniums. The facts presented in this and past articles on Minnie Berrington could not have been possible without collaboration with Stuart Wattison and Lorna Cameron, and thanks to Lara Lukich for linking us up.

Footnote:- It's pleasing to see in true Minnie Berrington tradition that the "cold impersonal efficiency of a modern post office" being kept at bay by our current post-mistress and staff.

**THE END**

# COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD



## ANDAMOOKA OBSERVATORY

Opal • Art • Books • Tours • Stargazing

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

Find us on Facebook

0487 112 747

Instagram

## Cellarbrations

Helping you celebrate

### CHECK OUR SPECIALS

1002 DODGY DRIVE  
ANDAMOOKA

(08) 8672 71183

## LAPIDARY WORKSHOP

19<sup>TH</sup> DEC - END OF YEAR BREAK-UP  
BYO BEVERAGES TO SHARE AT THE END OF THE SESSION  
CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS FROM 20<sup>TH</sup> DEC - TBA 2022

## Andamooka Health Service

Lot 33 Hospital Rd, Andamooka

Attended by: Diane Bilka, Anne Alexander & Health Service Assistants

### Opening Hours:

Monday/Tuesday	9am - 1pm → 2pm - 5pm
Wednesday	9am - 1pm
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

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

CLOSED FROM 2PM SUNDAY, 19TH DEC FOR CHRISTMAS BREAK

RE-OPENING AFTER AUSTRALIA DAY - TBA 2022



### 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



Merry Christmas and best wishes to everyone from Duke's Bottlehouse



Please register to receive your newsletter via email, or to register someone you know who would need a print copy

Email: admin2@apoma.com.au or call / text (m) 0477 184 485