

## OFF TO A GREAT START TO 2025...

### What's on

*(more details inside)*

- **ServicesAustralia** visit - Thurs 6th Feb - Com Hall
- **RFDS fundraiser BBQ** - Sat 15th Feb - Cottages
- **RDAFN free meeting basics training**— Andamooka 4th Mar RD Mon night 3rd Mar
- **St Patrick's Day Bingo**— Sun 16th March
- **Easter Long Weekend:**
  - Fri 18 Apr Welcome BBQ
  - Sat 19 Apr Markets
  - Sat 19 Apr Trivia Night
  - Sun 20 Bingo
  - Mon 21 Workshops
  - Lap Shed Activities
  - Art Exhibits at the Hub
  - & More

**Andamooka 2025 kicked off on a very hot Australia Day, with over 70 locals sharing a BBQ Breakfast and catching up with others who had recently returned from their Christmas Break.**

Presentations for this year's Australia Day citizen awards was a highlight of the day, with Debra Mundy announced as Andamooka's Citizen of the Year, young Riley Crompton as Young Citizen of the Year, and the very successful Annual Colour Run taking out the Event of the Year award. *(Find photos and more in the centre-fold).*

There was a renewed sense of optimism and general consensus that 2025 will be about building community connections, and the need for us to fight for retention and rebuilding of our community services, for encouraging more people to come along to community events and to get involved in activities and volunteering, and for creating a balance between old and new.

There is no doubt that Andamooka is undergoing change, and like all change it creates challenges and new opportunities, and at times conflict. So thank you to the community as a whole for pulling together to not only overcome the challenges, but to bring together an optimistic new town and community plan and adopting this in December 2024.

The Plan is 'owned' by the Andamooka community being created in conjunction with broad community consultation. In recognition of change it is designed to find the right balance within our community as Andamooka township progresses towards a stable and vibrant future.

*Please look out for Fast & Easy surveys now out on social media and the website, and you can find forms to fill out at the community hall and bottleshop. Your feedback will assist us with prioritizing projects and spending, and seeking grants and funding.*



### Australia Day Citizens Awards—Andamooka

There was an impressive number of nominations for 2025 awards, each nominee a deserving recipient, but there can only be one winner in each category. The judges intimated that they had a tough time with their final decisions.

The Winner of the 2025 Andamooka Citizen of the Year Award, Debra Mundy was judging by the response, a popular community choice. Recognised for the many hours she puts in voluntarily every week towards caring and improving the hub garden spaces, which are looking great, also running kids craft activities at the Hall each Saturday, and either running or assisting with youth and children's events and activities. She is a key volunteer of the local Op Shop which raises significant funds for the town, and a great supporter of the arts within the town. **Congratulations Deb from the APOMA Committee & Members.**



2025 Citizen of the Year Award presented to Deb Mundy by 2024 winner, Bev Burge

**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:**

Stefan Bilka 0475 347 905  
David Roe-Simons 0429 192 215  
Storm Damage 13 25 00

**CFS:**

Dave Bastian 0419 924 696  
Luke Corner 0418 403 616

**Andamooka Community Health Service:**

Hospital Road 8672 7087  
Or 1800 773 772

After hours: Emergency only

**Andamooka Snake Catcher contact  
Wildlife Hotline 0497 808 315**

**Post Office:** 8672 7007

Opal Creek Blvd.  
- **Dukes Bottlehouse Motel**  
- **Laundromat**  
- **Claims Registrations**

Open 7 days

Hours: 9am - 5pm Weekdays  
11am - 3pm Weekends

**Andamooka Powerhouse:**

8672 7235  
Faults & Emergencies 1300 151 935

**Andamooka Town Office:**

10.30am to 2.00pm Tues to Thurs.  
School Rd, 0477 184 485  
andamookatownoffice@gmail.com

**OCA:** 8648 5970

CCS & Avdata payments accepted at  
Andamooka Post Office

**Andamooka School & Children's**

Centre: 8672 7018

**Andamooka Community Hall:**

Enquiries contact Town Office  
- **Kids Splash Pad & BBQ Area**  
- **Book Exchange & Art Exhibitions**

**Dine-A-Mite Café:** 0409 512 692

Located at the Community Hall

Hours: Mon - Tues: Closed  
Wed - Thurs: 9am - 2pm  
Fri: 9am - 2pm & 5pm - 8pm  
Sat - Sun: 9am - 2pm

**Andamooka Caravan Park & Play-**

space: 0477 184 485  
Opal Creek Blvd, Rec Precinct

**Celebrations:**

Dodgy Drive. Town hub

Phone: Open 7 days

Hours: Mon - Sat 9am - 8pm  
Sun: 10am - 8pm

**CWA:** 8672 7183**Boo-Teek Op Shop:**

CWA Rd.  
Hours: Fri - Sat: 9am - 12pm

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Association Inc. (APOMA)

P.O. Box 246 Andamooka SA 5722

**KEEPING UP WITH BUSINESS:****ANDAMOOKA PROGRESS & OPAL MINERS ASSOC. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024**

APOMA held their AGM on Thursday 12th December 2024. The meeting originally scheduled for Sunday 23rd November was postponed on the day due to a major rain event which blocked access to the venue and kept many residents trapped in their homes.

The AGM, was attended by over 30 members and community, went well even if a little lively at times, with the annual report well accepted and adopted by members. Two items of interest to general community were passed by motion by the members after presentation, those being adoption of the new 2024-27 Town & Community Plan which will be presented with a comprehensive action plan at the annual APOMA Member and Community Meeting in March, and secondly support for the APOMA Committee to move ahead with acquisition of the old Mines Department Office to be converted to a community wellness centre. Members also approved donations to the RFDS & ACHWAG from APOMA fundraisers 2024.

The committee going into 2025 has welcomed two new members, being:

Paul Williams, nominated at the AGM, is a recently returned past resident who is keen to lift the scope of opal mining activities in Andamooka, and to see more community events and fundraising with opportunities for community connections and to provide funding to improve community services, already kicking off monthly community BBQ's at the cottages to raise funds for the RFDS.

Jim Middap is a recent Andamooka resident who was nominated for committee, and familiar to many locals for his community work in Roxby Downs, including as a member of Rotary, so he is experienced with working on community associations, and keen to get involved with APOMA community events and activities within Andamooka. He is a justice of the peace who will bring knowledge and experience to the table when working on committee.

Towards the end of the year there was a few changes with some members retiring from, and others seconded on to, committee. Active member for around 6 years, Rodney Mitchell will be greatly missed on his retirement. His input at meetings and assistance and involvement in community events and programs has been valuable, and he was also a member of the finance team and Arts and ACHWAG sub groups. Our thanks goes out to Rodney, who will be spending more time away from town to care for his wife Claudia, who was also a member of the committee before Rodney.

John Smirnios stood down at the end of his term, and Corrie Ferguson resigned midway through his term. Previous Chair Ian Thompson, was seconded onto Committee for a short time leading up to the AGM to assist with various matters with which he has experience, and retired at the AGM. Kath Wilby, APOMA public officer, was also seconded onto the committee to assist continuity with addressing matters carrying over into 2025.

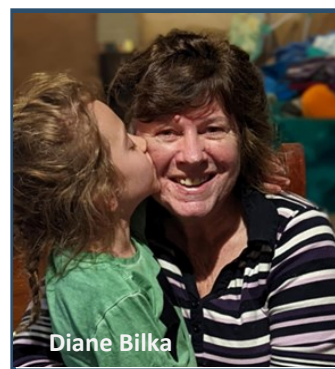
Committee nominations for three new Life Members were accepted with this honour going to APOMA members in recognition of their commitment and dedication to community which has resulted in legacies for community development, medical and emergency services, and for development and promotion of the broad arts in Andamooka which is on-going today. Recipients are past long-term APOMA Chair, Stefan Bilka, Diane Bilka and Heather Gordon. By the votes on the night, these were definitely popular choices by both members and community present.



Heather Gordon



Stefan Bilka



Diane Bilka





# WHAT TO SEE & DO

## FAST 'N EASY SURVEY

Fast & Easy surveys focus on a series of great ideas put forward by community members such as:

- Outdoor fitness equipment at the pump track
- Clean up of the desert sand volleyball court at the Cottages and install a stage
- More shade at the Cottages and in public spaces
- Hot Wheels track for kids
- Road to the Old Church community centre fixed to provide access by mobility scooters
- Playground upgrade and new equipment – suggestions??
- Indoor soccer and 3-a-side basketball for kids (& adults?)

Results from the surveys (*more to come*) will give us broader input on community preferences and we welcome you're your comments on some great ideas and suggestions that have been lodged for inclusion in the Plan by community, or maybe you have another idea...

*All of this will help with identifying priorities and project planning and seeking funding to make these things happen.*

You can find the Fast & Easy surveys on F: AndamookaHub and other social media and on the website at [Andamooka.sa.au](http://Andamooka.sa.au) - or you'll find forms to fill out at the community hall and bottle-shop.

Bring your best limericks

SAVE THE DATE  
SAINT PATRICK'S DAY

BINGO

Sunday 16th March



### ANDAMOOKA OBSERVATORY

Opal • Art • Books • Tours • Stargazing

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL



Find us on Facebook

0487 112 747



Instagram



## COMMUNITY BBQ THE COTTAGES

5 P M

SATURDAY 15TH FEB

RAISING FUNDS FOR ANDAMOOKA RFDS

### EVERYONE'S WELCOME AT THE ANDAMOOKA LAPIDARY CLUB

NOW OPEN EVERY SECOND WEDNESDAY

Whether you want to find out more about opals, maybe fossicking and where to look for them, or to learn how to cut and polish your opals or gems, how to turn matrix into magic shapes or perhaps get into beading and jewellery making, or would just like to watch the artists at work and have a chat with locals... join the busy and happy crew at the

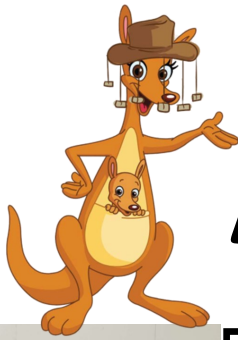
## LAPIDARY WORKSHOP



### OPENING HOURS:

SATURDAYS, 10AM - 2PM SUNDAYS, 12PM - 4PM  
& every second Wednesday





# AUSTRALIA



## Citizen of the Year - Deb Mundy

Deb is a remarkable individual who is a dedicated resident of Andamooka, who personifies the intersection of art and community through her volunteer efforts. Deb is the community garden coordinator and runs the children's arts and crafts program in the community hall every weekend as well as children's events introducing the Make your own Scarecrow competition.



## Young Citizen of the Year - Riley Crompton

Riley is a dedicated young man who is a valued member of the Desert Dirt Kart Club and SES cadets. He has grown up in Andamooka participating in youth and community events and supporting his peers.





# DAY 2025



## Community Event of the Year Award Annual Andamooka Colour Run

The Annual Andamooka Colour Run attracted families from far and wide in its showcase of vibrant colour and energetic atmosphere. Attendants and volunteers spent the day creating lasting memories and creating community connections over a sausage or two. Congratulations to Rebecca Dugan and Donna Waters whose tireless efforts supported by a team of volunteers, paid off in this amazing festival of fun and colour.



\*\*\*\*\*

Presentations of donations resulting from APOMA fundraising efforts across 2024 were made to the RFDS totalling \$1500 from the Annual Camp-Oven cook-Out event and Bingo, and to ACHWAG a donation of \$500







# COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

## Visiting service

**SERVICES AUSTRALIA IS VISITING ANDAMOOKA**

**THURSDAY 6th FEBRUARY, COMMUNITY HALL**

**If you need help with Medicare, Centrelink and/or Child Support, come and speak with our staff.**

**We're visiting from:**

Tuesday 4 to Thursday 6 February 2025

**You can find us:**

Dunjiba / Oodnadatta - The Pink Roadhouse on Tuesday 4th from 11 am to 4 pm.

Andamooka - Community Hall on Thursday 6h from 9 am to 4 pm.

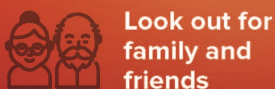
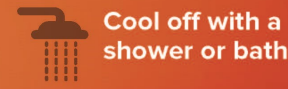
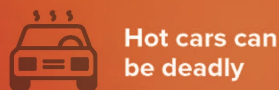
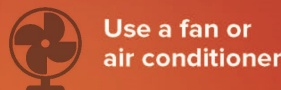
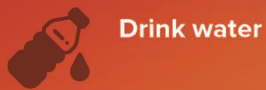
For more information about payments and services you can call the Centrelink Indigenous Call Centre on **1800 136 380**.

12864.2310



servicesaustralia.gov.au

# HEALTHY IN THE HEAT



www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/healthyintheheat



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## Equip Aged Care Learning Packages

**Enrol now – free and accessible online learning**

Equip Aged Care Learning is designed for personal care workers, nurses, allied health professionals, and volunteers working in the aged care sector. Entry-level modules for new staff and refresher-level content for existing staff will cover topics relevant to anyone working in aged care.

**BENEFITS OF THIS PROGRAM:**

- Entirely online and free. Accessible from your phone, tablet or computer.
- Introductory and refresher levels.
- Available for aged care workers, volunteers, and anyone with an interest in the care of older adults.
- Learn when it suits you.
- Each module takes only 10 minutes to complete.
- Certificates awarded on completion of each module.

Developed by the Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre, College of Health and Medicine at the University of Tasmania with funding from the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care.



Scan here to find out more, email [equiplearning@utas.edu.au](mailto:equiplearning@utas.edu.au) phone 1800 982 600 or visit [equiplearning.utas.edu.au](http://equiplearning.utas.edu.au)

CDIC05 002968

Attention community volunteers of Andamooka/Roxby Downs. If you are interested in the Aged Care sector, this online training is available.

For more information contact

Katalin Wilby on 0427 617 046

## 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](mailto:andamooka@flyingdoctor.net)

**After hours calls will be redirected to the RFDS**





# COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

**Andamooka CFS is recruiting**  
**Contact:**

**Dave Bastian: 0419 924 696**  
**Luke Corner: 0418 403 616**



**ANDAMOOKA  
 PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Andamooka  
 Children's Centre



*A Place Where Hidden Gems Are Unearthed*

## We are open for registration

For more info contact us on:  
 Phone: +618 8672 7018  
 Email: [dl.0509.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0509.info@schools.sa.edu.au)  
 Website: <https://andamooka.sa.edu.au/>

Lot 278, School Road,  
 Andamooka, SA 5725

### OCCASSIONAL CARE & PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAMS FOR YEAR 2025 (SCHOOL TERM ONLY)

#### Occasional Care Hours

**Monday** 2-4 years old 8:30am to 11:30am  
**Wednesday** 0-2 years old 9:00am to 12:00 noon

#### Kindy Hours

**Tuesday** 11:00am to 3:00pm  
**Wednesday** 11:00am to 3:00pm  
**Thursday** 11:00am to 3:00pm  
**Friday** 11:00am to 2:00pm



★ ★ ★ ★ **AT HOME OR ON HOLIDAY** ★ ★ ★ ★

## FIGHT *the* BITE



**PROTECT  
 YOURSELF**

**DISEASE-CARRYING  
 MOSQUITOES**

★ **COVER UP. REPEL. ELIMINATE.** ★



**WEAR LONG,  
 LOOSE FITTING  
 CLOTHING.**



**USE INSECT  
 REPELLENT.**



**ELIMINATE THE  
 WATER THEY  
 BREED IN.**

Mosquitoes spread serious and potentially even deadly diseases when they bite.  
 For more important information on how you can Fight the Bite, contact your  
 local council or visit [sahealth.sa.gov.au/FightTheBite](http://sahealth.sa.gov.au/FightTheBite)



# MEETING BASICS Training

## Andamooka

**Tuesday 4th March**  
**10:00am-12:30pm**

**Andamooka Community Hall**

**Mon 3 March**  
**6.30-9pm**  
**Roxby Downs  
 Community Hub**

A FREE training session on how you and your committee can have an effective meeting.

#### What will you get?

- Face to face training close to home.
- Understanding the roles and responsibilities of committee members and find out who does what!
- Learn how to set up functional Agendas and Meeting Minutes.
- Explore the basic governance of committees.

PLUS lots of helpful resources to take home!!!



**Register Here**

For more information contact:  
 Leadership Program Manager  
 Renata Hackett

E: [ljm@rdafn.com.au](mailto:ljm@rdafn.com.au) P: (08) 8641 1444



**Government of South Australia**  
 Department of Primary Industries  
 and Regions





**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**

**ANDAMOOKA**  
**Emergency**  
**Services**

**SES:**  
 Stefan Bilka: 0475 347 905  
 David Simons: 0429 192 215  
**CFS:**  
 Dave Bastian: 0419 924 696  
 Luke Corner: 0418 403 616

**Fire**  
**Emergency**  
**Call 000**

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

**24/7 OUTBACK**  
**MEDICAL ASSISTANCE**

**1800 733 772**

**HF Radio:**  
 4010 kHz  
 6890 kHz  
 8165 kHz

**Ask for**  
**ON CALL RFDS DOCTOR**



Royal Flying Doctor Service  
 CENTRAL OPERATIONS

**Cellarbrations**

Helping you celebrate

**CHECK OUR SPECIALS**

**1002 DODGY DRIVE**  
**ANDAMOOKA**

(08)

**& GENERAL STORE:**

- Day to day staples including bread, milk, dairy etc.
- Frozen meals—local made
- Range of frozen foods
- Pantry items
- General information...
- **DEFIBRILLATOR**

We thank the following sponsors, corporates and government funding bodies that have provided vital support to our community in our quest for growth, sustainability, resilience and wellbeing.



Government of South Australia  
 Department for Infrastructure  
 and Transport



Please register to receive your newsletter via email, or to register someone you know who would need a print copy  
 Email: andamookatownoffice@gmail.com or call / text (m) 0477 184 485