The Andamooka Press

First Published in 1973



September / October - 2026
VOLUME 16, ISSUE 3

Up-Coming Events

- **Oct 3rd - 4th :** October Long Weekend Events
  Full Schedule on Page 10 - 11
- **Oct 6th :** Community Care Morning Tea
- **Oct 17th :** Recycled Scarecrow Contest
- **Oct 23rd :** 'Outback Ready' Workshop
- **Oct 24th :** Community BBQ
- **Nov 2nd :** All Souls Day
- **Nov 29th :** APOMA AGM

More on Events page ... 10

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Header: White-Plumed Honey Eater resting in a gum tree.

Source: Outback Junita, 2026

SALA! Kids Steal the Show in the Outback!

1 – 31 August 2026

Congratulations to the kids of Andamooka Primary School — who sold every single piece of their artwork on the very first day of SALA 2026! Every piece found a home on day one — and their excited new owners had to wait the whole month before taking them, so everyone else could enjoy them too.

From bold, vivid portraits to intricate mixed media trees bursting with three-dimensional flowers, imaginative landscapes to playful scenes straight from the digital world — the range of skills, ideas, colours, shapes and textures on display was nothing short of impressive. These young artists brought confidence, creativity and pure joy to every piece, and it showed. Visitors stopped, smiled and reached for their wallets.

This year marked a significant milestone — Mary's Outback Treasures opened its doors as Andamooka's SALA home for the very first time, and what a debut it was. The response was overwhelmingly positive, visitors increased, and locals who had never stepped inside came through for the first time — drawn by curiosity, community pride and the outstanding quality of work on display. Mary was full of praise for the school and its leaders, and the enthusiasm throughout August never let up.

Across the walls, a wide and wonderful range of art filled the space — painting, jewellery, mixed media and more. Several of our artists pushed into exciting new territory, expanding unique styles that are sending ripples of inspiration through our creative community. The Outback Communities Authority's Grayson Cook also visited to capture some of our local artists on film, giving Andamooka's arts scene a well-deserved regional voice.
To every artist who contributed — thank you. And to our budding artists, representing the youth of our town — you were the heart of this show. Your talent, your enthusiasm and your creativity remind us all just how much we have to celebrate out here in the outback. Keep going, keep creating — we can't wait to see what you do next.



COMMUNITY CONTACTS & INFORMATION

FOR ALL EMERGENCIES CALL 000

EMERGENCY SERVICES
- **CFS** 000
- **SES** 132 500
- **Health Clinic / RFDS**
  - 08 8672 7087
  - 1800 733 772 (After Hrs)

ANDAMOOKA CLINIC
Ph: 8672 7087
Hrs: Mon - Fri: 9.30am - 4.00pm
Lunch 1-2pm (closed)

POST OFFICE
Ph: 08 8672 7007
Hrs: Mon - Fri: 9am - 5pm
Weekends: 11am - 3pm
Services:
- Dukes Bottlehouse Motel
- Laundromat
- Claims Registration

WATER & SEPTIC
My Little Desert Supply Co:
Gavin - 0419 196 760
Mooka Boys Water & Waste:
Cozza - 0427 879 787

POWER HOUSE:
Ph: 08 8672 7135

TOWN OFFICE:
Ph: 0477 184 485
Hrs: Tues - Thurs: 10:30am - 4pm
E: andamookatownoffice@gmail.com

OCA:
Ph: 8648 5970
CCS Payments & AVDATA @ PO

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE:
Jim Middap: 0400 414 004

SCHOOL & CHILDREN'S CENTRE:
Ph: 8672 7018
Library Hrs: Mon - Fri: Noon - 3pm
Thurs: Noon - 5pm
Sat: 9am - Noon

GAS BOTTLES:
Smurf: 0498 001 415

RUBBISH COLLECTION:
Gavin: 0419 196 760

CANS & BOTTLES COLLECTION:
Scott: 0498 377 672

ELECTRICIAN:
Richard Elliott: 0417 807 257

VET NURSE:
Erika: 0427 052 362

CELLARBRATIONS / GROCERIES:
Ph: 0488 033 387
Hrs: Mon - Sat: 9am - 8pm
Sunday: 10am - 8pm

DINE-A-MITE CAFÉ:
Ph: 0409 512 692
Hrs: Mon - Tues: CLOSED
Wed: 9am - 2pm
Thurs: 9am - 2pm & 5pm - 7pm
Fri: 9am - 2pm & 5pm - 8pm
Sat - Sun: 9am - 2pm

CWA / ANDAMOOKA BOO-TEEK OP SHOP:
Ph: 8672 7044
Hrs: Fri - Sat: 9am - 12pm

MARY'S OUTBACK TREASURES:
Ph: 0419 855 059
Art Gallery: 9am - 4pm Daily
Coffee, Cake, Sandwiches: Mon & Tues

MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTRATION:
Roxby Downs Town Council

ANDAMOOKA CARAVAN PARK:
Ph: 0477 184 485
Opal Creek Bvd

For more details, visit:
www.andamooka.sa.au

ANDAMOOKA PROGRESS AND OPAL MINERS ASSOCIATION INC.

ANDAMOOKA PROGRESS & OPAL MINERS ASSOCIATION
APOMA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2026

2:00PM

ANDAMOOKA COMMUNITY HALL

All community members are encouraged to attend.

The agenda will be provided shortly to members and advertised on the community notice boards.

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
10:30 AM - 4:00 PM

URGENT ENQUIRIES
OCA: 08 8648 5970 **APOMA:** 0477 184 485
Town Maintenance: Richard Hawkins 0418 855 165
Address: Lot 281 School Rd, Andamooka
Postal: PO Box 246 Andamooka SA 5722
Email:
OCA: oca@sa.gov.au
Town Office: adminmanager@apoma.com.au
Town Maintenance/Projects: admin1@apoma.com.au
Newsletter: andamookapress@outlook.com
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: Dave Roe-Simons
chair@apoma.com.au
Treasurer: Mel Kathagen - *acting Treasurer*
apomatreasurer@apoma.com.au

PO Box 246 Andamooka SA 5722
Email: secretary@apoma.com.au

www.andamooka.sa.au

PUBLISHER

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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: The Editor
andamookapress@outlook.com

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APOMA reserve the right to edit all submissions for publication in the Andamooka Press.
No responsibility is taken for advertiser's claims.

Andamooka Progress & Opal Miners Association Inc.

'Preserving our past and planning for our future'

NOTICE TO APOMA MEMBERS

APOMA COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

Elections for the term commencing November 2026, to be held at APOMA Annual General Meeting SUNDAY 29th NOVEMBER 2026

WHO CAN NOMINATE?

To stand for election to the APOMA Committee, you must have been a financial member of APOMA for a minimum of three months before submitting your nomination.

NOMINATIONS OPEN - Tuesday 6 October 2026

Want to nominate for the APOMA Committee? You will need **two financial APOMA members to support your nomination** — one to nominate you and one to second your nomination. The nomination form must be signed by **you, your nominator and your seconder**.

NOMINATIONS CLOSE - 5:00pm Friday 30 October 2026

Completed nomination forms must be lodged with the **Andamooka Town Office** by the closing time.

NOMINATION FORMS AVAILABLE:

- **VIA EMAIL – by request to secretary@apoma.com.au**
- **VIA POST – by request via phone or text 0477 184 485**
- **PICK UP A COPY –**

o Andamooka Town Office, located School Road in the town hub Tues to Thurs between 10.30am and 4pm.

o Bottleshop Counter

o Andamooka Post Office

LODGE ORIGINAL SIGNED NOMINATION FORMS:

- **In person** at the Andamooka Town Office or Andamooka Post Office in a sealed envelope addressed to: The Secretary, Andamooka Progress & Opal Miners Association, and the date lodged **–** *please note and sign your date of lodgement.*
- **Post to:** The Secretary, APOMA, PO Box 246 Andamooka
- **By email to**: secretary@apoma.com.au

Andamooka Progress & Opal Miners Association Incorporated (APOMA)
Postal: PO Box 246 Andamooka SA 5722 email: secretary@apoma.com.au Phone: 0477 184 485
www.andamooka.sa.au

Andamooka Post Office

Community Contributions 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.*

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 memberships lapse December 31st.

To make your vote count, please make sure that you have paid-up your 2026 membership fees.

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

NAB
BSB:085 896
Acc: 2425 11591

COMMUNITY PROJECTS & GRANTS

Small Town Reinvention

Thanks to a sponsorship from the Outback Communities Authority, the Andamooka Town Office sent Kayleen to represent our outback SA communities at the National Small Town Reinvention Conference: five days on the road out of Longreach, Western Queensland.

Joining around 80 delegates from councils, businesses and communities across the country, plus a couple of enthusiastic visitors from New Zealand, the group piled into 4WD coaches to cover some serious outback ground. Not everyone arrived with their luggage, either. Around 20 delegates, Kayleen included, landed in Longreach without their bags, which made for a very stylish first evening in Qantas pyjamas. The conference kicked off with a call to **"banish the bland"** and give small towns back their own "WoW" factor. The theme, **Prosperity Through Connection, Collaboration and Community**, kept coming back to one question, asked a dozen different ways: what have we got that others don't?

There was plenty of proof the answer is usually **"more than you'd think."** Aramac's cattle country and its bulls. A Qantas 747 lit up after dark with the Milky Way projected across its fuselage, and some good laughs listening to three different towns each claim to be Qantas's true founding location. We'll leave that one to them.

Winton brought dinosaurs into the mix, and a real "wow" for a town our size: **six opal shops**, and only three pubs. Kayleen went looking for a bit of Andamooka opal among them and, with time short, didn't find any. Disappointing, but never say never. Somewhere in there was also a cowhide pool table that had to be seen to be believed, imagine a night after a few drinks trying to play!

One afternoon offered a choice: the clickety-clack of one of the last hand-operated engines of its kind still running, or the gentle bob of a river cruise. Either way, you came home with a story. Under the stars that night, a proper stockman's dinner. At Blackhall, signage was a stand out, along with the real acceptance for those who call themselves the black sheep, and some walked away with the t-shirt to prove it.

Then came the **Crackup Sisters**, the undisputed highlight of the trip. Our final night at the Thatched Inn, Ilfracombe left us with cheeks-sore laughter, a dosy-do that had the whole crowd up, and Kayleen proudly modelling their merch on stage, picked up earlier at the Waltzing Matilda Centre, the only museum in the world built around a single song. A seed's already been planted to bring the crackup sisters to Andamooka. They're a hoot!

The trip home had one last twist. Aircraft trouble meant around 20 delegates spent an unplanned (and free) night in Brisbane… ready for a plane early the next day.

This is but a small list of the entire experience we were privileged to be shown.

Andamooka got its own moment too, sharing a little of the transformation already under way here and sparking real interest from communities who'd never heard of our little opal town before. One conversation, one new connection, one more town curious about what we're doing, sharing ideas was embraced during the conference.

As part of the sponsorship, Kayleen will present her findings at the OCA Progress Forum later this year. It's a message that kept surfacing, not just in Longreach but again the following week at the National Rural Health Conference: **people are our biggest and most important asset. Relationships are the infrastructure.** Not a plan, not a building, but people. So to everyone in Andamooka who shows up and makes this place what it is: we see you, and thank you.

Small town reinvention is on the horizon here too, rising, like the sun, over our mullock heaps and hidden gems.

Watch this space.




WINTON






CAIRNS
2034


WH



Maintenance Report

There has been no shortage of activity around town since our last edition. The Historic Cottages BBQ area is nearly complete. Andy's stone wall is finished, the gas lines are in and final connections are underway as we go to print. It's been great to see some of our young locals getting their hands busy alongside Andy and the crew, learning real skills and building something they can be proud of for years to come.



A special thank you to the Anic family for the donation of the stones. History forever captured, memories of old and new.





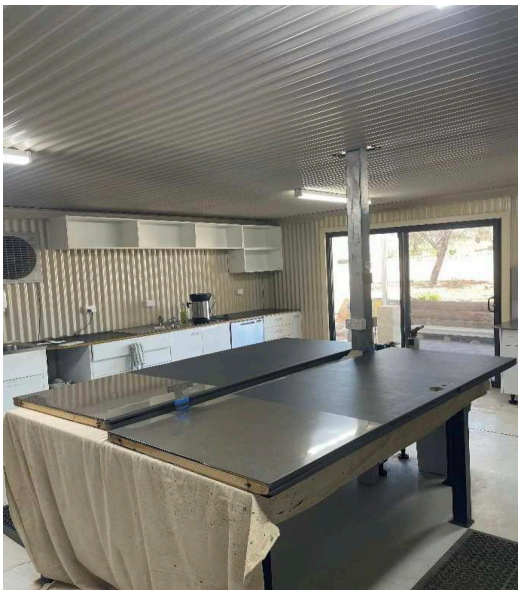
Our RJED team have hit the ground running with Bec's beautification work at the Community Hall parking area. Reticulation has been replaced. Rocks have been carefully placed, and it's neat, tidy and looking loved. The Town Park continues its ongoing development, with further preparation underway ahead of the next round of planting.





Inside the Community Hall, the Historical Opal Field Map frame has been painted, with three more frames ready to be hung to complete the historical displays. Thanks to Andy and the crew for continuing to make our community hub feel loved and celebrated.

The Community Produce Garden is really taking shape, with pipework, fencing and site preparation well underway thanks to the Mooka Boys and our hardworking town crew, Jarrod, Patricia and Bec. The Community Kitchen doors have also had a well-deserved freshen up, stripped back and repainted, looking brand new and nearly ready to be rehung.





On waste management, following community consultation, conversations with the Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation continue as we progress plans for a new dump site location. Good progress is being made towards a long-term solution for Andamooka's waste management.





BOTTLES AND CANS COLLECTION



CALL SCOTT ON
0498 377 672

COLLECTING
FORTNIGHTLY
IN ANDAMOOKA

MUST CALL
TO BOOK PICK-UP



Mary's OUTBACK Treasures

LOCAL ART • OPAL • HANDMADE CRAFTS

Stunning Andamooka opal & opal jewellery by local artisans

Textiles, Pyrography, Prints & Books

Local art & handmade creations

Featuring the largest collection of Alex Mendelssohn art on display

NOW AVAILABLE
COFFEE, CAKE & SANDWICHES
MONDAYS & TUESDAYS

OPEN DAILY
9am - 4pm
Cash or Card Accepted

LOCATED
CNR OF OPAL BLVD,
ANDAMOOKA SA 5722

FIND US ON
FACEBOOK

Government of South Australia
Department for Energy and Mining

Opal Mining Act 1995

Part 3—Precious stones tenements

25—Unlawful entry on tenement

(1) A person must not, without lawful authority or excuse, enter or remain on land comprised in a registered precious stones tenement without first obtaining the permission of the holder of the tenement.

Maximum Penalty:
$10,000

SAPOL - 131 444



$10
Per session
plus
materials!

ANDAMOOKA LAPIDARY IS OPEN!

Saturday & Sunday
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Andamooka Lapidary Shed

- Watch the cutting and polishing wheels in action
- Chat with our friendly crew and learn the craft of lapidary
- See raw opal and stone transformed into sparkling gems
- Beginner-friendly – a perfect chance to try something new

Closed shoes recommended
New members welcome – join our lapidary family!

Steering the Ship: A Shout-Out to Lara

Big birthday wishes to Lara, our Town Office Manager, who keeps the wheels turning behind the scenes of the Town Office. Phones, paperwork, projects and a hundred small things nobody sees, Lara handles a lot of it, and she'd be the first to say she doesn't do it alone. It takes the whole team, backed by the APOMA committee, to keep this place running, though Lara's a big part of making that work.



Lara would also be the first to say this isn't a one-woman job, and never has been. It's a role that's been carried by different hands over the years, and everyone who's held it has added something to the foundation this town stands on today. To all those who've managed the Town Office prior, thank you. Your hard work and long hours are part of the fabric of this place, and they deserve to be remembered.

A massive thank you to Mel K, who pulled together a birthday card in true Andamooka style, in only one day, and somehow turned coloured paper, stickers, textas and a lot of heart into something genuinely beautiful, filled with notes from little kids, café crews, mates, neighbours and the Town Office team. This is Andamooka doing what it does best: turning up for each other.

Happy birthday, Lara! We love you!

ANDAMOOKA CARAVAN PARK

Proudly community owned & managed

RATES

$5 per person, per night

$15 per night with power (2 people)

Stay as many nights as you like.

WELCOME TO ANDAMOOKA

Fossick for opal, fossils & minerals. Explore our opal mining town, colourful history and wide-open horizons.

LOCATION: Cnr Opal Creek Blvd & Water Way

ACCESS: All-weather sealed road from Stuart Hwy

COORDINATES: 30.4499 S / 137.1635 E

AMENITIES

- Showers & toilets
- Potable water
- Undercover BBQ kitchen
- Undercover playground
- Waste pump-out facility
- Walking distance to town hub

BANK TRANSFER • APOMA
BSB: 085896 Account: 71 073 5044

Pay at the YELLOW donation columns or by bank transfer.

DINE-A-MITE CAFE

DINE-A-MITE CAFE

Open Wednesday - Sunday 9am-2pm

Thursday evenings 5pm - 7pm

Friday evenings 5pm - 8pm

LOCATED IN THE ANDAMOOKA COMMUNITY HALL

PHONE 0409 512 692

Andamooka Observatory

Opal mining & Astronomy tours

Book your adventure

WWW.ANDAMOOKAOBSERVATORY.COM.AU

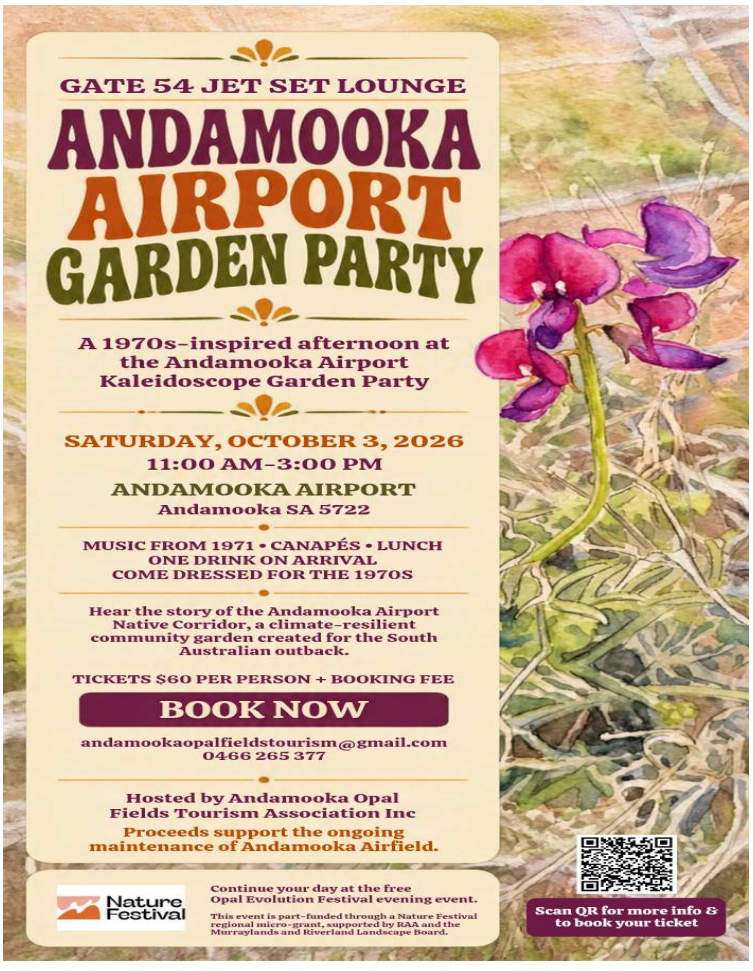
0466 265 377

What's On This Oct









ober Long Weekend





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

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY
26th: Australia Day

FEBRUARY
14th: Valentines Day

MARCH

APRIL
Easter Long Weekend

25th: Anzac Day

MAY
9th: Mothers Day

JUNE
June Long Weekend

JULY
Dog Registrations Due

AUGUST
SALA

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER
October Long Weekend
6th: Community Care Morning Tea
17th: Recycled Scarecrows
23rd: Outback Ready
24th: Community BBQ
31st: Halloween

NOVEMBER
2nd: All Souls Day

11th: Remembrance Day

29th: APOMA AGM

DECEMBER
25th: Christmas Day



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





RECYCLED SCARECROW COMPETITION

Face Painting by Tori

Bring Your Homemade Scarecrow On:

SATURDAY 17th OCTOBER 2026
11 AM at the ANDAMOOKA PUMP TRACK

Sausage Sizzle & Water Available From 12 Noon
for a Gold Coin Donation!

Don't miss out on the fun!
Show off your creativity and
get out into the community!
Everyone Welcome!
Children aged 10 and under to be supervised.

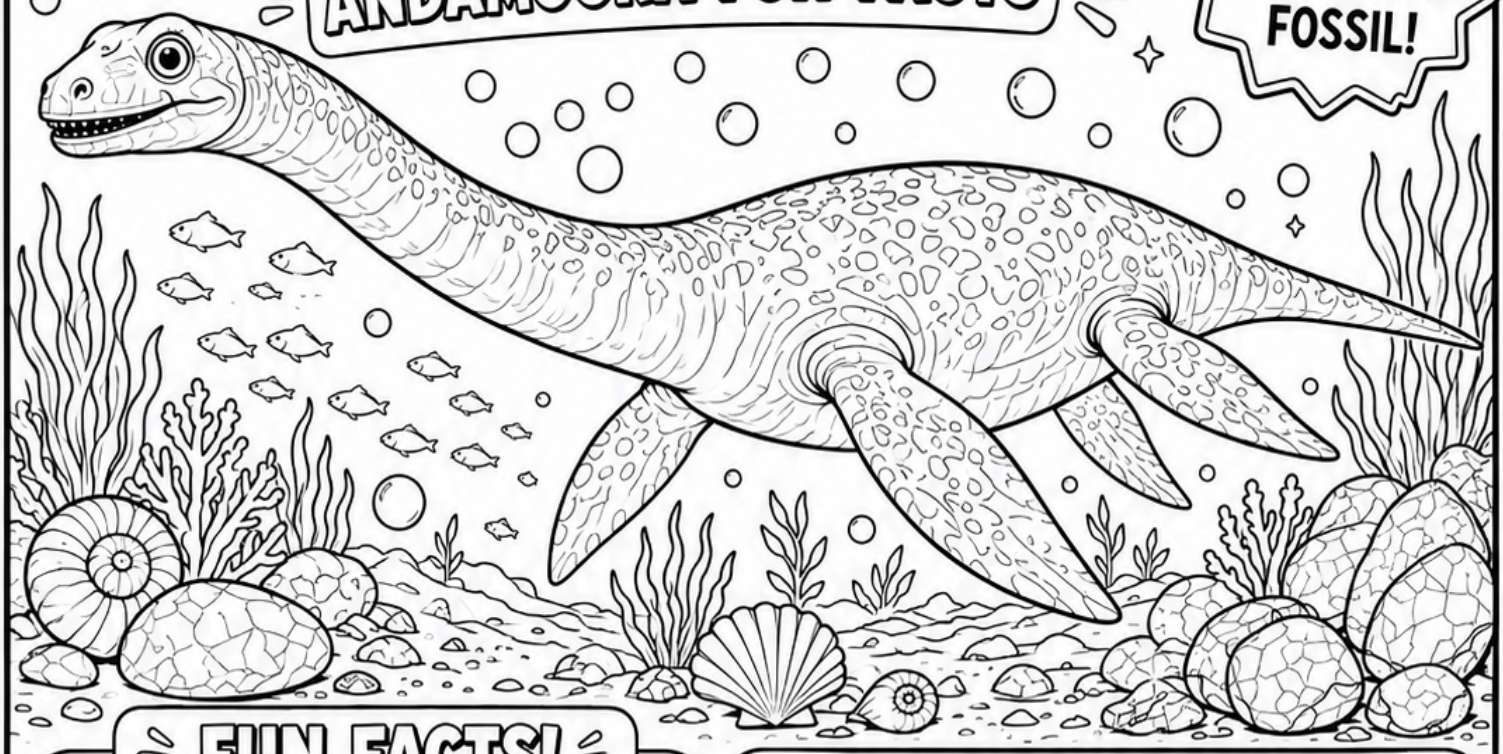
SCARECROW CATEGORIES:
- Pre-School
- Primary
- Other



ADDYMAN PLESIOSAUR

ANDAMOOKA FUN FACTS

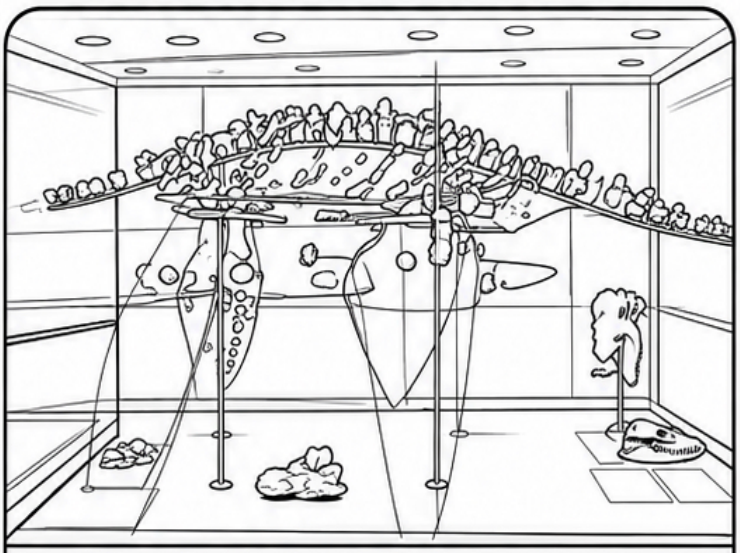
A WORLD-FAMOUS ANDAMOOKA FOSSIL!



FUN FACTS!

- The Addyman Plesiosaur was a 10-metre-long marine reptile.
- It swam in the inland sea that once covered South Australia.
- It was discovered in an Andamooka opal mine in 1968.
- Its opalised skeleton fragments were reconstructed in tribute to its former glory.
- The Addyman Plesiosaur is known as one of the finest opalised skeletons on Earth.
- Today, fragments of Addyman can be seen in the fossils gallery.

THE ADDYMAN PLESIOSAUR DISPLAY ON SHOW IN THE FOSSILS GALLERY



Real opalised fragments of the Addyman Plesiosaur, reconstructed and proudly displayed.

DISCOVERED IN ANDAMOOKA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, IN 1968

SEE ADDYMAN TODAY IN THE FOSSILS GALLERY

SCHOOL NEWS

Andamooka Primary School

Term 3 2026 | #2

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Welcome to Spring and a warm welcome to our Andamooka Community.

As we end Term 3, we are excited to continue fostering a safe, inspiring, and engaging learning environment. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our school community.



SCHOOL TERM 3 HIGHLIGHTS

1. RAA ROAD SAFETY VISIT TO OUR SCHOOL
2. OUR ADVENTURE VISIT WITH THE CAMELS FROM TREKKING CAMELS WHO CAME TO ANDAMOOKA
3. OUR BOOK WEEK PARADE
4. PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY SALA ART EXHIBITION



BOOK WEEK PARADE!





WE LOVED SEEING THE CAMELS UP CLOSE!

COMMUNITY LIBRARY NEWS

Wow what a term we have had so far, learning about all types of books and the amazing costumes on parade day. Thank you to all those who came out to support the children. Now we are officially in spring, yay. We will be doing some planting, painting, experiments and a creativity day. Hopefully we can do these activities outside in this beautiful weather we are having.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

- **SEPT 29TH** PLANTING YOUR VERY OWN SEEDS TO TAKE THEM HOME AT THE END OF THE HOLIDAYS
- **OCT 1ST** SPRING PAINTING, USING DIFFERENT METHODS
- **6TH** NATURAL EXPERIMENTS
- **8TH** NATURE CREATIVITY DAY

LIBRARY HOURS

Libraries SA

Monday - Wednesday & Friday
12 noon to 3pm

Thursdays - 12 noon to 5pm

Saturdays - 9am - 12 noon

Public Holidays - Library Closed

08 86727018 DL.0509.info@schools.sa.edu.au www.andamookaprimaryschool.com

From Snags to Science: A Fantastic Day at Andamooka Primary

The Andamooka community came together on 23 September for the **Andamooka Primary School Science and Book Fair Open Day**, with plenty of smiles, learning and community spirit on display.

The morning began with a delicious sausage and onion breakfast, thanks to **Cozza**, before students from the school and kindergarten were recognised for demonstrating our values of **Belonging** and **Curiosity**. Congratulations to **Archer, Charlotte, Alexander, Aria, Kaylea and Kai** on receiving awards.

Visitors were then invited to tour each classroom and see firsthand the incredible work students have been completing throughout the term. The final stop was the Upper Primary classroom, where students proudly presented their Science Fair projects.

There was certainly no shortage of creativity and curiosity on display. **John Kathagen** conducted an investigation using slices of bread to test how much bacteria could be found on various surfaces by observing mould growth over time. **Charlotte Aplin** wowed visitors with her beautiful crystal landscape project. **Shayne Kathagen** explored the growth of plants treated in three very different ways: with love and encouragement, with aggressive treatment, and through neglect. If you see Shayne around town, feel free to ask him about his findings - the results may surprise you! **Anthony Bodsworth** investigated the effects different liquids can have on our teeth using eggs as a model. Let's just say that if you're a fan of Red Bull, his results might give you something to think about!



[Charlotte showing off her crystal project.]



[Anthony showing off his liquid experiment]

The celebrations continued at the **Community Library Book Fair**, where books sold for just **50 cents each**, helping raise funds for new library resources.

A huge thank you to all the families, friends and community members who took the time to attend and support our students. Your encouragement helps make events like these so special and shows our young people that their learning is valued by the whole community.

Many people may not realise that the **Andamooka Community Library** is exactly that - a library for the whole community. Everyone is welcome to visit, whether it is to borrow a book, DVD or audiobook, use our computers, access our **FREE Starlink Wi-Fi**, or seek assistance with printing, scanning and photocopying. On a hot day, it is also a great place to enjoy some cool air conditioning!

We encourage everyone to pop in and say hello to **Mel**, **Kaya** or perhaps even **Trish** at your local community library.

Library Opening Hours

- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm
- Thursday: 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm
- Saturday: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Finally, a huge congratulations to all students and staff on a fantastic Open Day. From snags and science to books and big discoveries, the day was a wonderful celebration of learning, curiosity and community spirit. Just another reason we're proud to call Andamooka home.

By Melissa Kathagen
Andamooka Community Library/SSO



SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

FUN EVENTS FOR EVERYONE

SEP 29
LET'S GET PLANTING

Come down and plant some seeds to take home and add to your garden at home.



OCT 1
SPRING PAINTING

Let's get creative with some out of the box style painting.



OCT 6
LET'S GET CRAZY WITH NATURE

Fun and simple experiments that are all nat-u-ral.



OCT 8
LET'S GET WILD

Creativity meets nature arts and crafts.



86727018

ACTIVITIES 1PM - 2.30PM

COMMUNITY LIBRARY

ANDAMOOKA PROGRESS & OPAL MINERS ASSOCIATION
APOMA

Community Care MORNING TEA

TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER | **10:00AM** | **ANDAMOOKA COMMUNITY HALL**

Come for a cuppa, a slice of cake and a comfortable chat.



APOMA's Community Care team is hosting a relaxed morning tea to connect with our community around aged care and home support services.

We want to better understand who in Andamooka is currently receiving care and support at home, what that looks like, and where there might be gaps — so we can work toward making sure everyone who needs support is able to access it.

Whether you have an aged care package, are caring for someone at home, or simply aren't sure where to start — this morning is for you.

No forms, no pressure, just tea, coffee, cake and a genuine conversation on the comfy lounges in the hall.

If you think you or someone you love might benefit from support at home but aren't sure how to access it, we'd especially love to see you there. You don't need to have it all figured out — that's what we're here for.

Tea, coffee and cake provided

For more information or to have a chat beforehand, contact Kayleen at the Town Office:

communitycare@apoma.com.au | 0477 184 485

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Keeping Andamooka Connected.
FAST RESPONSE | SAFE & COMPLIANT | QUALITY WORKMANSHIP | HONEST & DEPENDABLE

Cellarbrations
Helping you celebrate
& GENERAL STORE
1002 DODGY DRIVE, ANDAMOOKA
PH: 0488 033 387

OPENING HOURS
Monday – Saturday
9 AM to 8 PM
Sunday
10 AM to 8 PM

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

Cocktails, Games & Conversation — Liptember in Andamooka



Kaya brought Liptember to Andamooka in style — and what an afternoon it was.

A long table of ladies filled the Community Hall on Saturday 26 September, cocktails flowing courtesy of Homeros — all the way from Vancouver — with a beautiful selection of non-alcoholic options alongside. Espresso Martinis, Margaritas, Cosmos and Pina Coladas in hand, the games of Scattergories and Headbands — designed for kids, absolutely humbling for adults — had the room in stitches.

New faces, new friends, coloured lipstick worn with abandon, and high vis swapped for something a little more fun. Kaya arrived with her daughter and granddaughter — three generations showing up together for women's mental health — and the conversation starters that followed were pure gold. People shared, laughed, opened up and connected in ways that only happen when someone creates the space for it.

Kaya's commitment to raising awareness online — sharing her own family and story to open the conversation around women's mental health — set the tone long before the cocktails were poured. She showed up wholeheartedly, and it showed.

All funds raised were donated to Liptember in support of women's mental health. **www.liptember.com.au**

Walking for the RFDS — The White Dam Walk Lives On

Some traditions are worth keeping alive — and some people are worth honouring long after they're gone.



Mrs Inge Duke walked alongside that same spirit — a pillar of this community and a tireless supporter of the RFDS whose efforts over the years raised over $70,000 and whose dedication to walking became the stuff of local legend.

Andamooka used to mark that spirit with an annual White Dam Walk, between 1990 - 2001— our community coming together for a 10km trek. Many as kids walked this track, as many remember what it felt like to walk together for something that mattered.

This October, as the RFDS runs their Oceans to Outback challenge, Kayleen will be lacing up her boots and walking 10kms to White Dam on 30th October — in honour of Uncle Bill, Mrs (Inge) Duke, and to keep the spirit of our pioneers alive. You are welcome to join her for all or part of the walk. Happy to go it alone — with a little help from some kind souls with water along the way, and a ride back to town never goes astray!

If the spirit moves you — consider joining the RFDS Oceans to Outback challenge yourself this October. Run, walk or ride. Every kilometre counts.

Get the body moving, grab a friend — and make it happen, Andamooka style.

Bill McDougall was one of Andamooka's most beloved characters. From1968 - the late 1980's, out at White Dam, Bill ran his famous pub with a glass of homemade plonk, a yarn about the opal fields, and a quiet ask for a small donation to the Royal Flying Doctor Service. It sounds simple. Over time, those glasses of plonk and those yarns added up to in the vicinity of $250,000 raised for the RFDS, and towards $50k-$100k also donated to the emergency service over the years, both a service Bill knew firsthand was a lifeline for communities like ours. He dedicated his life to it, one visitor at a time. Always, about community support.



Girls Just Wanna Have Fun...ctions About Women's Health

On the 31st August 2026 – Andamooka kicked off Women's Health Week in style, transforming the community hall from its usual barn-sized self into something altogether different — comfy lounges, mood lighting, an intimate space where women could sit, talk and feel safe together. More than 40 women filled the space, including our coordinating teams and cafe staff (and one special fella — we love you, Pete!). A rare and wonderful turnout for a town our size.

Everyone came dressed in colour for the night's theme, "Colours of the Rainbow" — a rare excuse to get dressed up and show up as ourselves.

Jean Hailes for Women's Health runs Women's Health Week each September to raise awareness of the health issues affecting women, girls and gender-diverse people. It's a week that matters everywhere, and it was wonderful to celebrate it here in Andamooka.

The night ran on games, conversation and good information — health topics that affect all of us, in different ways, at different times. And the real headline was dinner. Dine-a-mite Cafe took on their first community event of this scale, serving up a two-course while barrels of laughter echoed through the night. The community meal had everyone with full tummies and bigger smiles. The reviews of the food kept coming all night.

Of course, this being Andamooka, the power chose dinner service to go out. True bush style: we adapted. Torches came out, table lights got put to work, backup lighting kicked in — and the night didn't miss a beat. Proof, once again, that this community always has a backup for when disaster (or just the little things) arise.

Beyond the fun, the night carried real weight. One of the RFDS SA/NT team who joined us put it simply:

"It was more than just a dinner. It was an opportunity to meet a lot of people who hadn't had contact with someone from the community before. Having a nurse present — that recognition, that familiarity — it means so much in a community like this. People don't always present to the clinic often, but when they know who's going to be on the other side of that door, that changes everything. Even just a wave in the street makes a difference. It's about making sure the energy is going toward connection, toward being approachable."

She's hoping to see more of a regular roster for herself in Andamooka specifically — and that says everything about the kind of care this team brings. For them, it's clearly more than a job. They understand what presence and familiarity really mean for a community like ours.

A huge thank you to APOMA, RFDS SA/NT, Dine-a-mite Cafe, and — most of all — the community who came along and made the night what it was.



Photo By: Donna Waters

ANDAMOOKA PROGRESS & OPAL MINERS ASSOCIATION

APOMA

ANDAMOOKA COMMUNITY BUS

Heading to Roxby Downs Shopping Centre

Departs from the front of the Andamooka Post Office at 10:00AM every THURSDAY

Limited seats – 10 passengers only
If the bus has already left, it was at full capacity.

Returns from Roxby at approximately 1:00PM
or when all passengers have returned to the bus.

$5 per person – return



Fancy a Drive?

Andamooka's community bus is looking for a few friendly faces to join our volunteer driver roster — particularly Thursday mornings.

It's a few hours here and there — not every week — and it's a nice one. Run a few jobs, take a trip into Roxby, catch up with locals, and do a good turn for the community.



Pop into the Town Office or give us a call — no pressure, just a chat.

0477 184 485

ANDAMOOKA LIFE

In Memoriam — Honouring Those We've Lost

Our community has said goodbye to some of its own. In a small town, every loss is felt—in the streets we share and the familiar faces we miss.

We remember, in no particular order:

Martin Lloyd
Marina Flint
Tracey McGrath
Anne Nicholls
Liz Hancock
Chrissy Clarke
Peter Yoko
Rick Boston
Nat Rogers
Ingo Hansen
Sue Downey

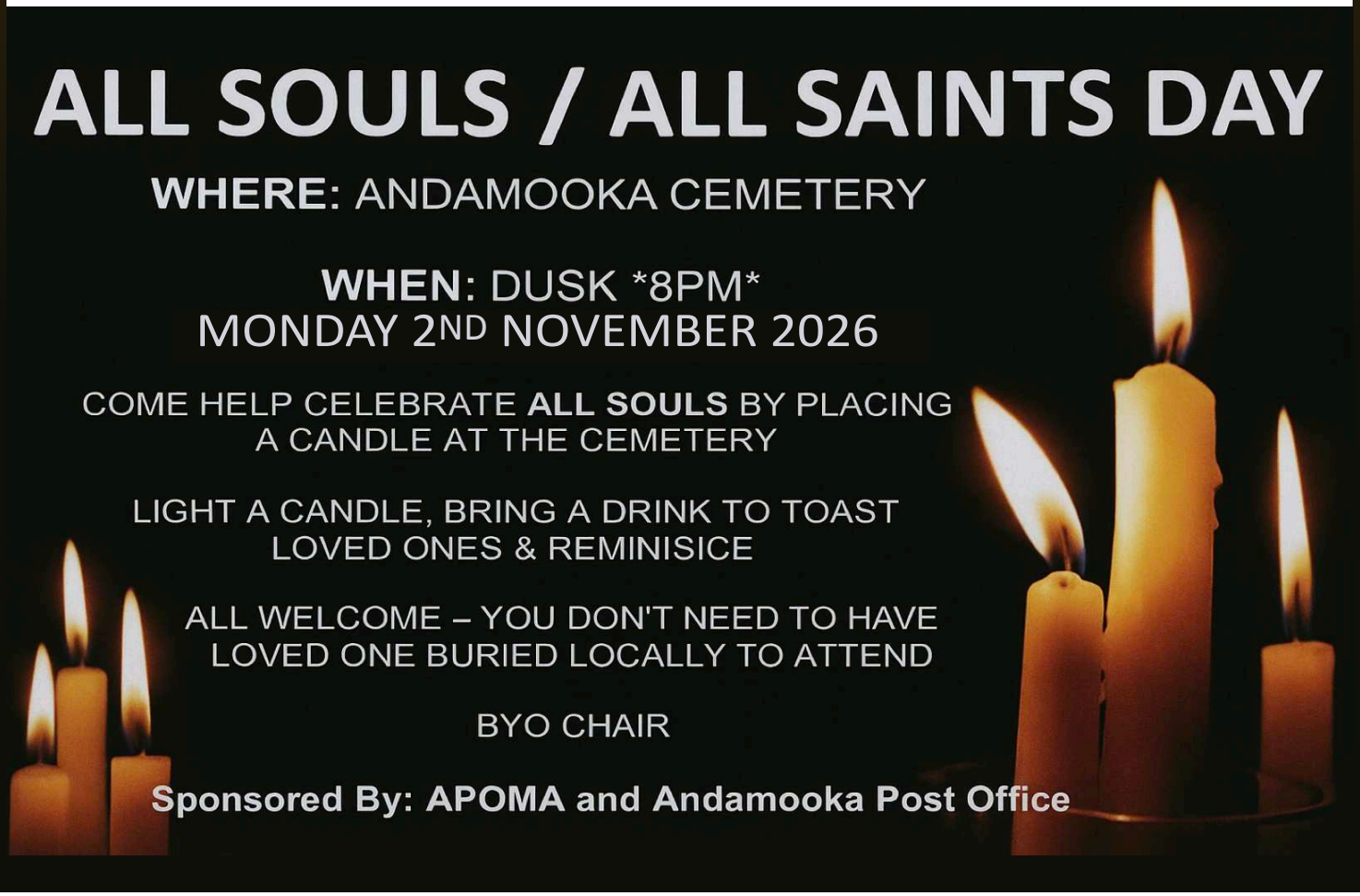
We also hold in our thoughts all those whose names may not appear here, but whose lives and connections to Andamooka are warmly remembered.

Light a candle in remembrance

For All Souls / All Saints Day, come at sunset to place candles on the graves and memorials at **Andamooka Cemetery** in remembrance of those we've lost. Bring a drink to raise a toast, share a story and remember together.

Everyone is welcome—you don't need to have a loved one buried locally to attend. Please bring a chair.

Those we have lost remain part of our community, our stories and our hearts.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



ANDAMOOKA CFS & SES BACKUP CREW

Support Your Community. Make a Difference.

The Andamooka Country Fire Service (CFS) is recruiting **backup crew members** to help respond to incidents when regular members are at capacity.

A flexible and rewarding way to get involved – no long-term commitment required.

CFS
A Community Protecting Our Community

SES
SA STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE

CFS BACKUP CREW

TRAINING
One-off Basic Firefighting Course (weekend)

ONGOING
Refresher sessions approx. every 6 months (or more if you like)

HOW IT WORKS
Uniforms stored at station
Alerts via BART phone system

ROLES AVAILABLE

FIREGROUND OPERATIONS

- ✓ 18+ years
- ✓ Police clearance required
- ✓ Physically able to manage a fire hose

TECHNICAL & LOGISTICS

- Pump operators
- Comms Officers
- Heavy vehicle drivers

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

- Non-active roles
- Assist behind the scenes

SES VOLUNTEERS ALSO NEEDED

The Andamooka SES is also looking for volunteers.

Basic training available for those wanting to assist during emergencies.



GET INVOLVED

CFS
Bron Cunningham
0499 688 751

SES
Stefan Bilka (Unit Manager)
0475 347 905

Every volunteer helps keep **ANDAMOOKA SAFE**



Local Jobs, Local Voices: RJED Update

Earlier this month we shared some exciting news: APOMA secured funding through the Australian Government's Remote Jobs and Economic Development (RJED) Program, creating four (now five) paid local jobs for the next three years, including roles focused on community health and wellbeing.

We want to share a bit more about how this came about, because it wasn't just "a grant."

This funding exists because of **community partnership**: the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) had opportunities available, and Complete Personnel Group called for community consultation to identify what our community wanted and needed most. APOMA organised that consultation, and more than 25 people came along to share their thoughts. This grant is the outcome of that community partnership, and those conversations.

That trust, from NIAA and from Complete Personnel Group, in our team, our management and the framework of our town, matters, and we don't take it lightly.

A few people asked how much funding was involved and where to apply. Funding details sit with NIAA, who administer the RJED Program, so that's the place to go for specifics. These roles aren't general APOMA vacancies; they come with eligibility requirements through the Remote Australia Employment Service (RAES). If you're currently receiving government assistance and would like to be considered for future RJED roles, speak with your employment provider or get in touch to express your interest.

This isn't just four jobs. Our volunteers and local businesses have carried this town for a long time, and that energy isn't endless. Opportunities like this expand our local workforce and take some of that weight off the people who've been holding it, so we can grow into something that thrives, not just survives.

We believe people and relationships are the real infrastructure of this town, not just plans or buildings, and this partnership is one example of that belief in action.

Thank you to Complete Personnel Group, whose support has helped APOMA secure this funding and who continue to walk alongside local people through RAES.

And to our five new employees: welcome to the team. We wish you every success, and we look forward to what we can achieve together over the next three years.

Expression of Interest:
Casual Admin Assistant – Andamooka Town Office

Thanks to the employment opportunities RJED has created for our local workforce, a member of our current team has moved into a new role — *opening this position for someone else in our community.*

About the role

The Andamooka Town Office is inviting expressions of interest for a casual Admin Assistant role.

- Up to 10 hours per week
- Flexible days and hours, around your lifestyle
- No experience necessary — training provided

About you

- Must be local to Andamooka
- A team player
- Reliable and willing to learn

How to apply

Email your resume or a short expression of interest to adminmanager@apoma.com.au



Expressions of interest close:
Friday, 15th October 2026

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Andamooka Community Health Clinics

To Book

(08) 8648 9500

clinicbookings@flyingdoctor.net

Book Andamooka visits before midday the day before.

Telehealth

Phone/video consults with Port Augusta clinicians, any weekday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM.

Bushlink Kiosk

rfdssant.com.au/bushlink

Not yet listed as active in Andamooka - Confirm with RFDS.

DATE	TYPE	NOTE
Mon 28th Sep	Primary Care	
Thu 8th Oct	Allied Health	*Overnight*
Fri 9th Oct	Allied Health	-
Mon 12th Oct	Primary Care	
Mon 19th Oct	Primary Care	
Tue 20th Oct	Allied Health	*Overnight*
Wed 21st Oct	Allied Health	-
Mon 26th Oct	Primary Care	
Mon 2nd Nov	Primary Care	*+ Coorabie/Nullarbor*
Thu 5th Nov	Allied Health	*Overnight*
Fri 6th Nov	Allied Health	-
Mon 9th Nov	Primary Care	
Mon 16th Nov	Primary Care	
Tue 17th Nov	Allied Health	*Overnight*
Wed 18th Nov	Allied Health	-
Mon 23rd Nov	Primary Care	

DENTAL TEAM VISITS

@ RDFS CLINIC

20/07/26 - 24/07/26

AND

23/11/26 - 27/11/26

FOR BOOKINGS PHONE:

1800 370 793

Royal Flying Doctor Service

SOUTH AUSTRALIA & NORTHERN TERRITORY

24/7 MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Ask to speak with the on-call **RFDS Doctor**

1800 RFDS SA

(1800 733 772)

Andamooka Health Service

Lot 33 Hospital Road, Andamooka

Opening Hours:

Monday	9:30am – 1:00pm | 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Tuesday	9:30am – 1:00pm | 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Wednesday	9:30am – 1:00pm
Thursday	9:30am – 1:00pm | 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Friday	9:30am – 1:00pm | 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Closed	Weekends | Public holidays | Lunch 1-2

All welcome!

Phone: (08) 8672 7087

Email: andamooka@flyingdoctor.net

Health Is Everyone's Business

18th National Rural Health Conference, Adelaide, 14-16 September 2026

Kayleen recently represented the Andamooka Town Office at the 18th National Rural Health Conference this September, themed **Equity & Transformation: shaping rural health, disability and ageing**. Thanks to the support of Complete Personnel Group, whose backing has been integral to the growth our town is seeing.

It was good to see familiar faces from our RFDS healthcare team, who held a strong presence throughout the conference. They personally demonstrated what care looks like when you're valued, respected and looked after.

The Numbers

Susi Tegen, CEO of the National Rural Health Alliance, called current rural health policy "not fit for purpose" and the situation "outrageous." The conference's message was clear: policy written by metro people for metro people doesn't fit regional communities, and rural areas need policy focused on their own realities. Rural communities were estimated to be underfunded by $6.5 billion in 2023/24, $8.35 billion in 2025 and **over $9 billion in 2026**. Many people, Susi included, are fighting hard for change, and we are proud to stand alongside them.

Many voices, one fight

This isn't a fight we're having alone. Clinicians, researchers, community leaders and young people across the country are working to change those numbers, and it was a meaningful thing to witness. One of the message from the conference stage is worth sharing: our health workers in every role, our community leaders and everyone who holds a town together are **bigger than any army**.

Every age, every stage

- **Ageing well:** dementia isn't a normal part of ageing, and up to 45% of the risk factors can be changed. Free carer training tools exist.
- **Women and girls:** health education is reaching regional schools, and menopause care is being trialled for women outside the cities.
- **Young people:** in one workshop,after sharing study results, youth stated it was the first time they'd felt heard in decisions about their own community. Loudly and proudly demonstrating they have so much to offer, and it's about time that was recognised. More young people are now contributing to changes across the field.
- **Men and farmers:** the program covered men's health and mental health in farming and mining communities. Breaking the stigma in many areas, encouraging more men to speak up. Encouraging you "don't keep it under your hat"
- **Everyone:** voices matter, and care should be person-centred.

Movement, and then we danced

Physical activity was named again and again as one of the most powerful, **changeable protections for our health** as we age, especially our brains. Not just any movement, but movement done with others, for joy, not just as exercise. That's exactly what happened on day two, when a session called Up on Purpose had me up dancing with the RFDS team in the stands. A good boogie. That night at the conference dinner dancing back to back with one of the Alliance's directors, and side by side with an occupational therapist from the RFDS team that supports our little outback community. There's sometimes nothing better than letting your hair down and shaking off the stress with a boogie, and it turns out the research agrees with me. That's old school Andamooka energy, when the streets were always filled with music, dancing and laughter.

The Golden Prescription

Social prescribing means health professionals prescribing social activity, volunteering and time in nature as key parts to improve your wellbeing. We're calling it the **Golden Prescription:** social activity and engagement with your local community. No referral needed. Volunteering is part of this too, it lifts the quality of life and vitality of the person giving their time, as much as the community receiving it.

The final morning began with fifteen minutes of laughter, led by wellbeing educator and TEDx Adelaide speaker Annie Harvey, whose work has taken her across Australia and overseas. Her advice was simple: one to two minutes at a time, best shared with others, no sense of humour required, and unlimited refills.

Why laughter belongs in healthcare

According to Annie Harvey, laughter:

- reduces stress hormones and improves mood
- lowers depression and enhances immune function
- improves focus and creativity
- lowers blood pressure
- improves comfort during medical treatments
- strengthens social bonds

So here's our invitation, Andamooka. Let's come back together. Turn up to the next event, sit with a neighbour, volunteer, laugh, dance. Simple, yet deeply lacking in today's society.

Sticks, Andy, Alexis and the team have kept our community BBQs going, and it's exactly the kind of thing that keeps a town connected. Lately, numbers have been down, and the team is feeling the strain of running them without enough hands or faces showing up. If you can make it along to the next one, or lend a hand, that's the Golden Prescription in action, and it's what keeps initiatives like this alive. We'd hate to see something this good become another thing our volunteers can't sustain.

Closer to home

As APOMA has announced, RJED funding is creating four paid local jobs over the next three years, with community health and wellbeing one of two areas of work. A local workforce means more people on the ground, so our volunteers, who've carried this town for so long, don't have to do it alone. We are also working on a Community Care Centre, with health and wellness the key focus from here. Come join us for morning tea Tuesday 6th October @ 10am in the community hall and have a chat.

What I'm bringing home

Three days, over 100 presentations, and the same messages kept coming back. The numbers show rural health needs serious focus. Policy built for the city doesn't fit our towns. What we can do, are **simple and human**: relationships, listening, movement, laughter, connection. That's why our focus is a Community Care Centre focused on person-centred care, with access and **the needs of our people the most important things to invest in.**

There's much more than fits on these pages, and we'll share more in coming editions.

Health is everyone's business.



LOCAL BUSINESSES

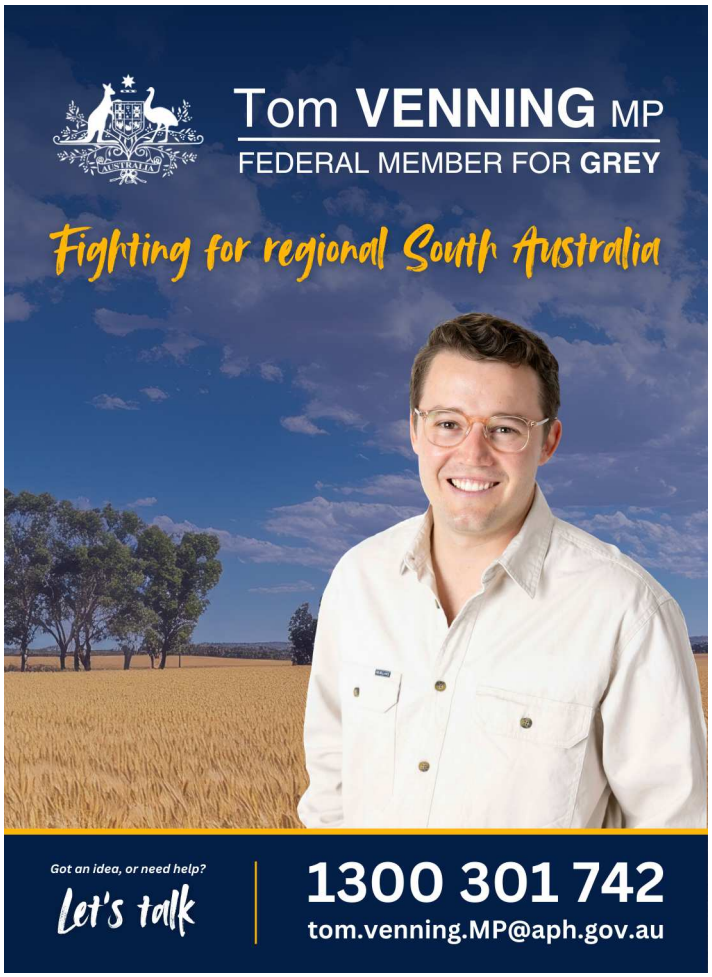














Please register to receive your newsletter via email, or to register someone you know who would need a print copy

Email: andamookapress@outlook.com or call / text (m) 0477 184 485