

Noodling for Ministry Gems

in Coober Pedy with Dave & Margie Wood • July 2026 [Watch our video update](#)



Opportunities to connect with tourists, connect with kids, connect with the faithful, and connect with one man who hadn't been to church in 40 years, are just some of the things that have been happening in Coober Pedy. We're excited to share some updates with you.

Winter has come around in the desert and as we found in our first year here, it's quite cold. The nights get down to around 10 degrees and the days are sub 20 or 22 if we are lucky.

It's such a diverse part of God's creation; the summer never seems to end and the heat and flies are bearable with gritted teeth, and the shoulder months are sublime. In winter there is this amazing phenomenon, we get red morning skies and red evening skies, perhaps something to do with the cold layers of air, but God's adorning of His day at start and finish lifts our gaze to Him for certain. Have a look at the season mentioned in Genesis 8:22

Tourist season

So, in this wintertime we have our tourists back with us, they fill up the church on Sundays, they drop in throughout the week, we spend time with them as they do this; either a quick hello or a longer slightly more in-depth conversation. Our Sundays now include a monthly lunch after church; it's such a simple thing but spending this time with locals and visitors has added a deeper commitment

from us all to spend more time together as a Church family. I think this is valued because we don't many mid-week events.

Sunday Night Youth Fellowship

We have added a Sunday night youth fellowship down at the Umoona Aboriginal community. It was meant to be a time for families but it's mostly the kids that turn up – eight to 10 kids, all Aboriginal, mostly primary school aged but with a few high school kids as well.

As with most Aboriginal ministry, with these kids it's very chaotic and getting them to listen to a Bible talk for five minutes is a win. We play games, try to sing, have a feed and then a quick talk. It's all about time with them, loving them unconditionally and caring for them.

We are so thankful to God for this instant youth group! Our wonderful young church worker Faith is a blessing from God when it comes to connecting and working with these kids.

One funny thing is finding out what they love; in a word it's pizza or milo...

Banner Image: Kanku-Breakaways Conservation Park

Circle Image: Dave & Margie

Middle Image: Umoona evening fellowship kids' program – Bible story time

Bottom Image: Dave cooking a BBQ in the Umoona community café for the community

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Mission prompts more sport!

As well as the Sunday night youth hang out, there is also mid-week cricket. Coober Pedy is one of those remote towns where there is hardly any youth sports played. Up to this point in time there was only some judo and soccer at the school gym on a Sunday. The idea of doing more sport came after we had the SMBC mission team here for a week, where we ran two basketball afternoons. The kids loved it and so AFSS (the youth shed crew) has now organised one arvo a week of basketball and we also do cricket as well. It's a kindness from God to see kids playing basketball or cricket on the town courts. This outreach is very mixed with both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal kids playing sports together. This provides a great opportunity for us to build relationships with the kids.

Getting back into the Word

A guy we know, who Dave started motor bike riding with, has started reading his Bible with Dave on a Wednesday. They are currently going through the book of John. To see him engaging with

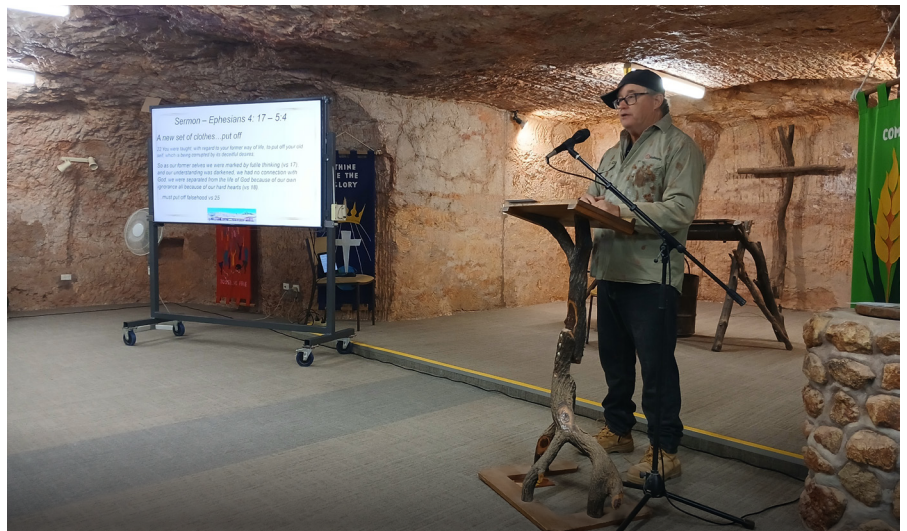
the Word after an absence of around 40 years is wonderful (he used to go to the youth group at our church). He is now coming to church without us even prompting him. God always does the heavy lifting and we are just the conduits.

It's been wonderful to work through our sermon series on Ephesians after finishing Luke (which we completed after two years). The plan is to get back into Genesis and recommence at the story of Isaac and then move onto Jacob. We will finish the year looking at Acts. We are both looking forward to this.

Margie's Ladies Bible study has been going really well. It's always encouraging for them and they're growing in faith together each week.

We really enjoyed our time at the biennial BCA Field Staff Conference in Queensland earlier this month, which was followed by the wedding of one of kids! This break of more than two weeks has seen us refreshed after a busy season.

Find out more by watching [our latest prayer video](#).



Thanks for your prayers and support,

Dave & Margie

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Coober Pedy**

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Going the distance to share Jesus in the bush