

# SHIRE OF KOJONUP E-NEWS

Edition 175 – 20 March 2020

---

## COUNCIL BRIEFS

### COVID-19

The Shire of Kojonup expresses its concern for the safety, health and wellbeing of our community, staff members and their families. The spread of COVID-19 will have an impact on the community which will be constantly evolving over the months ahead. As such, we advise that as a precautionary measure, the Shire of Kojonup has now moved to implement social distancing measures, (as advised by the Commonwealth Government), to ensure the resilience of staff and community members, while trying to maintain a positive approach to our everyday lives (to the extent that is within our control).

As such, the Shire respectfully requests community assistance with regards to minimising interactions with the Administration Office and Library. While the office and library will remain open, community members are encouraged to undertake their Council business either online, via phone or email via [council@kojonup.wa.gov.au](mailto:council@kojonup.wa.gov.au)

If you choose to present to the administration office or library to conduct your business, please don't be offended if you are asked to place documents on the counter or library books into a receptacle. Strict hygiene practices are being undertaken by staff for yours and staff safety.

All non-essential events have now been cancelled including: Play Café, Play in the Park, Nightfields, BeConnected, Story Time, Parent Information Sessions and Tours at The Kodja Place. The swimming pool will also be closed from Monday 23 March. While these measures may seem harsh, please be assured, this arrangement will be constantly re-evaluated as things change. You can keep in touch via our [Facebook](#) page and [Website](#) for regular updates.

**Springhaven Lodge** has also implemented a strict visitation regime and now operates as a controlled access facility with visitation being restricted to only absolutely necessary visits. No children will be allowed access to the facility. This measure was undertaken in consultation with the residents and includes the following protocols:

All visitors will be required to present to the main door and ring the bell where staff will come and greet you. Before you are granted entry you will be required to complete a short questionnaire in order to assess the risk your presence poses to residents.

Questions will include;

1. Have you or anyone you know been overseas in the last 14 days?
2. Have you been in an airport in the last 14 days?
3. Do you feel unwell; have a temperature/dry cough/sore throat/body aches/shortness of breath etc?

***(If any of these apply to you, access to Springhaven will not be granted until your symptoms have been resolved.)***

Upon entry, we will be asking you to wash your hands and follow cough and sneeze etiquette (i.e. cough/sneeze into your elbow or a tissue and then wash your hands.)

Further, all major group activities have been postponed, such as school and choir visits. External providers such as hairdressers and occupational therapists have also been advised to stay away until further notice. Non-essential contact will be in accordance with recommendations from Aged Care Services Australia and the Department of Health WA.

### **Some useful links for the community**

Community members are encouraged to use the online resources listed below for up to date, factual information:

- [HealthyWA website](#) - this should be the main page to refer people to as it has information on COVID clinics and current advice.
- [Commonwealth Department of Health](#) – contains a number of fact sheets to answer the many questions that are currently being asked by the broader community and different industries including advice for employers,
- [State Government Coronavirus Page](#) – includes the WA Government Pandemic Plan
- Monitor and share any [HealthyWA Facebook](#) posts about Coronavirus information which is updated daily.

Last but not least, please remember to look after your own health but don't forget those who may be less fortunate than yourself. A little bit of compassion goes a long way when times get tough.

### **COUNCIL MEETING OUTCOMES**

The Council Meeting was held at 3.00pm on Tuesday 17 March and the highlights are listed below.

#### ➤ **Cricket Pitch - Permanent Removal Of Western Cricket Pitch From Oval**

*That the request from the Kojonup Football Club and subsequent consultation undertaken to permanently remove the Western Cricket Pitch from the Sports Complex upper oval and replace with grass in the 2020/2021 financial year, be approved*

#### ➤ **Sporting Facilities Major Upgrade – Grant Funding Mix**

The scope of works to be undertaken at the Kojonup Sports Precinct has been amended to reflect the funding allocation which was received, as follows:

*That the scope of the Kojonup Sports Precinct Upgrade Project be amended as follows:*

1. *The kitchen upgrade be deferred pending future funding opportunities and possible individual components being funded through the normal annual budget process;*
2. *The installation of audio-visual equipment be deferred pending future funding opportunities and possible individual components being funded through the normal annual budget process;*
3. *The construction of a roof over two (2) netball courts remain and be funded through:*
  - a) *Requesting the Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries consider a request that the funding provided for new oval lights be reallocated to the installation of a roof over two (2) netball courts;*
  - b) *A loan for the majority of the Shire's contribution be included in the 2020/2021 draft annual budget;*

4. *The Upper Oval Lighting component be deferred and that an application be made in a future round of the CSRFF funding program.*

- **Disability Access & Inclusion Committee Meeting Minutes – 3 December 2019 & 25 February 2020**  
The Terms of Reference for the Disability Access and Inclusion Committee have now been amended to reflect the Committee recommendations.

*That:*

1. *The minutes of the Disability Access & Inclusion Committee meetings held on 3 December 2019 and 25 February 2020, as attached, be received; and*
2. *The terms of reference of the Disability Access & Inclusion Committee be amended to read 'Meetings of the DAIC will ordinarily take place on a quarterly basis'*

- **Social Media – Draft Policy 2.3.10**  
*Draft policy 2.3.10 – Social Media, was adopted*

- **Local Government House Trust – Deed Of Variation**  
*That the proposed Deed of Variation in relation to the Local Government House Trust be endorsed and Western Australian Local Government Association be advised in writing of the Council's support*

- **Compliance Audit Return 2019**  
The Compliance Audit Return for 2019, was adopted

- **Request For Tender 06/2019/2020**  
Council accepted the above tender as follow:

*That:*

1. *The Tender offer from Airport Alliance Contracting for a total of \$262,237 Inc. GST for the Kojonup Airstrip In-ground Electrical Upgrade as recommended by the electrical engineer be accepted*
2. *The loan contribution be extended from \$110,851 to \$156,385*



Shire President  
*John Benn*

A/Chief Executive Officer  
*Anthony Middleton*

## SHIRE PRESIDENT AVAILABLE FOR APPOINTMENTS

The Shire President welcomes appointments every Wednesday between the hours of 2.00pm and 4.00pm.

To arrange your appointment, contact Lorraine Wyatt on 98312400 or at [ea@kojonup.wa.gov.au](mailto:ea@kojonup.wa.gov.au)

## CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

### SWIMMING POOL NEWS

Whilst the temperature outside may be decreasing, the water temperature at the Kevin O'Halloran Memorial Swimming Pool is still nice so coming in and enjoy this great facility before we close on Tuesday 24 March 2020. With all the major events now over, it's the best time to come down and enjoy the last few days of swimming.

#### SCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Kojonup District High Swimming Carnival was held on Thursday 12 March and they had an absolutely fantastic day. Congratulations to all involved and I look forward to another day like that next summer.



#### SWIMMING CLUB

Swim Club Championships were held in the main pool on Monday 16 March from 3pm to 6pm. This friendly competitive day went brilliantly with a number of best times being broken. All the participants had an awesome day. Thanks to all the parent helpers throughout the year and especially to outgoing President Julie Parker for everything she has done for the last couple of years. My time as coach has also come to an end with Nathan and Dave to take over the role next year. A big thank you to all involved over the last 3 years of my coaching and I look forward to watching and helping from the pool deck again next season.

#### ENTRY STEPS INTO THE POOL

Have you found it hard to get in and out of the water in the past due to the vertical wall steps? If so, come in and view/try out our new Entry Steps. They have made a huge difference enabling easier access to the main pool for many people already this season.

#### Aqua Aerobics

Our fantastic Aqua Aerobics classes have finished for the season with classes held all summer by our ever enthusiastic instructor Shaydn. Thank you to all that came and participated over the year and we look forward to getting these up and running next summer.

## Please Always Remember to Watch Around Water





## LIBRARY NEWS

"Today we have taken the decision to close all non-essential events and activities due to the corona virus. This includes Story Time, BeConnected, Play Cafe, Play in the Park and the Author Event planned for the end of April". I will post out all A Smart Start birthday books and resources, so please check your mailboxes.

The library is still open for you to exchange your books. Returned books are now to be placed in the tubs at the library foyer. If you would prefer not to enter the library, you do have the option to reserve your books with the catalogue. <https://kojonup.spydus.com> is the link for the online catalogue. I will then place your books in a tub at a prearranged time for your collection.

*We do have a special request and it's one we hope you can support us with. If you are feeling sick or have stayed home from work because you're unwell, please don't come into the library! As much as we love seeing all our library users, we regularly get people coming in when they are clearly sick, or home from school/work, which places us and other library users at risk.*

### A Smart Start & Early Years Information Sessions:

Many thanks to Holly Beek for presenting 'Early Parenting & the Couple Relationship' workshop at the Library for our families. The people attending received awesome ideas as they move forward together as parents, being truly the best parents they can be.

### New Family DVD's available on our shelves:



### New Adult Fiction on our shelves:



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWS

On Thursday, 19 March, Kojonup students from Pre Primary to year 10 attended The Magic Coat at the Sporting Complex which was presented by its founder Di Wilcox

The Magic Coat is a Community Outreach Program that provides Magic Coat resources to schools, organisations and not for profits that work with vulnerable children to help them feel safe, empowered and resilient, to cope with the many challenges that the world throws their way.

The program was very engaging and It uses a common language that the whole family can use to discuss ways to solve many different problems that children may face. Given all that is going on in the world right now, this was a very timely program for Teachers, Students and their Parents.

For more information go to <https://themagiccoat.com/> or join the Facebook page for tips and updates. Books are also available for purchase on the website which contain all of the programs strategies.

## Practical Driving Assessments

The next practical driving Assessor will be visiting Kojonup on

**Friday, 3 April and 1 May 2020** from 8:15am.

Bookings are essential as there are only a small number of vacancies available.

Please contact the Shire Administration Office to book a place 98312400.

For more information about your Practical Driving Assessment follow this link:

[https://www.transport.wa.gov.au/mediaFiles/licensing/LBU\\_DL\\_B\\_PDA.pdf](https://www.transport.wa.gov.au/mediaFiles/licensing/LBU_DL_B_PDA.pdf)



## THE KODJA PLACE

### Kojonup Visitors are Saying

“Thank you Jack for a wonderful Tour”

M & I Mackenzie, Dunsborough WA

“Excellent, well maintained facilities. Always a pleasure to stop”

T & P Laver, Perth WA

“A delightful spot and information. A must visit”

B & G, Queensland

“Lovely spot”

D Silkstone, Leeds, Yorkshire UK



### LOCAL JAMS & RELISHES

We would like to thank Roma Cavanagh for supplying the Visitor centre with homemade jams and relishes over the years. Roma's jams are often sought out by regulars who travel the Albany Highway and stop in especially to grab a jam or two. They have sold so well that we are often on the phone to her requesting more supplies.

We wish Roma and John all the best for the future and we hope that they can now take the time to enjoy spending quality time with their family.

Thanks to Marina Murray for agreeing to keep our supply of homemade jams going. We have a few of Roma's jams and relishes on the shelf so come and grab them before they are gone.

---

### SPRINGHAVEN NEWS

Renovations have finally been completed here at Springhaven. We are all pleased with the results and are happy to get back to normal again.

Due to the Covid-19 Virus we have had to make some big adjustments around our facility in order to protect our Residents. We need to ask that non-essential visitors refrain from coming to Springhaven.

Certain activities and visits have had to be cancelled but we hope to keep the residents routine as normal as possible through this disruptive time.

We have a new RN with us. Ciara O'Regan started with us in February and we couldn't be more thrilled to have her on our team. Ciara comes from Cork, Ireland and has been nursing for four years. Welcome to the team Ciara!



We have had a few residents celebrate their Birthdays over the last couple of weeks. Marion Smart (90), Alice Welshman (87) and Jean Haig (90). Happy Birthday Ladies!

We were blessed to have Lyn Matthews come and play the piano for us a couple of weeks ago. The residents absolutely love listening to music and enjoyed their morning very much. Thank you so much Lyn for visiting and playing your beautiful music.







This week we celebrated St. Patricks Day in style. The room was festively decorated and the Irish tunes were playing. We had Ciara Button from Beaufort Hounds come and Irish dance for us. What a performance it was. The residents thoroughly enjoyed themselves and are all so grateful for the visit.

If anyone has a special talent, plays a musical instrument or if you have a special pet you would like to bring in for pet therapy with residents – please contact Alex on 0404 455 650.

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) information for families and residents on restricted visits to residential aged care facilities**

An information sheet for families and residents on restricted visits to residential aged care facilities on how to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) is available from:

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-families-and-residents-on-restricted-visits-to-residential-aged-care-facilities>

community, many choices



## LANDCARE



Joining forces with Junior Landcare, the popular TV star and Landcare champion has launched the 'What's in your Backyard?' campaign to encourage the next generation to get outside and document what's in their local environment.

Costa wants kids across Australia to grab a camera, and snap photos of the flora and fauna in their backyard. With the help from their parents, carers and teachers, **kids can submit photos to Junior Landcare to be in with a chance to win one of ten \$250 cameras.** The major school prize will be a visit from Costa!

When submitting your photo, select from one of the four categories biodiversity, food production, Indigenous perspectives and waste management and tell us why it is important to you.

Costa says "the entire environment is your backyard..."

Your backyard might be a garden. If you live in an apartment, your garden could be plants on your balcony. You may live near a park or bushland area, or a river or wetland. You may live on the coast close to the sea, or on a farm.

'What's in Your Backyard?' is a key activity in Junior Landcare's new Learning Centre. With 30-minute learning activities developed by education professionals, the Junior Landcare Learning Centre has been created to help children be aware, empowered and active in caring for their local environment. The Learning Centre will help children understand biodiversity, where their food comes from, Indigenous perspectives and recycling and waste management.

The 'What's in your Backyard?' campaign **closes April 20!** Get snapping and send us your photos today! Get involved here: <https://juniorlandcare.org.au/campaigns/whatsinyourbackyard/>

## New information on tick removal

We are currently in the thick of tick season. Most active from September to April, ticks are parasites that feed on animal and human blood. There are two families of ticks found in Australia: hard ticks (family: Ixodidae) and soft ticks (family: Argasidae). The most common hard ticks encountered in Western Australia (WA) are the ornate kangaroo ticks (*Amblyomma triguttatum spp*) and the brown dog tick (*Rhipicephalus sanguineus*). Soft ticks more commonly parasitise birds, marsupials and horses, rather than people.

RIGHT: Ornate kangaroo tick adult and nymph.



The WA Department of Health has published some new online resources detailing the health impacts, prevention strategies and removal recommendations associated with ticks. It is important to note that the tick removal recommendations have recently changed.

If an individual has a known tick allergy, they should seek medical assistance immediately. Removal should not be attempted without medical supervision. If an individual has a known hypersensitivity or is concerned for any reason, a medical professional should also be consulted prior to attempting tick removal.

### Tick self-removal

In most other cases, self-removal of a tick is appropriate. The recommended method of tick self-removal is to apply permethrin-based creams or ether-based sprays. Preliminary research indicates that by killing ticks prior to removal, the risk of allergic/anaphylactic reactions may be lessened, as exposure to tick saliva is reduced.

Permethrin-based scabies creams can be applied to kill small larvae while still attached to the skin. This is most appropriate when the larvae are small and hard to target with an ether-based spray. Nymph (pepper tick) and adult ticks are best removed by freezing them with an ether-based spray. Several different sprays are now available at local pharmacies specifically for tick removal.

If the tick has been frozen in situ yet does not fall off on its own, it can be removed with fine tipped forceps/tweezers. The tick should be grasped as close to the skin as possible. Avoid squeezing the body of the tick and gently but firmly pull directly upwards. Be sure not to twist or pull on an angle, as this may increase the likelihood of breaking the tick, leaving the mouthparts embedded in the skin.

Following tick removal, a first aid cream containing an antiseptic, anti-inflammatory, and possibly an anaesthetic, can be applied to the bite site.

For More information call Medical Entomology, phone: (08) 9285 5500 or email: [medical.entomology@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:medical.entomology@health.wa.gov.au)

## How to Create a Fire Resilient Garden Sue Dempster, Western Wildflower Gardens

In regional areas, fire can be a threat to gardens but with clever thinking about how plants grow, Western Australian natives can be a great tool for protecting your home.

Earlier this month, the community of Katanning saw fire burn through farmland and precious Southern Region bushland after being sparked by lightning. We never know when or where a fire can start therefore, being aware of how your plants grow, can provide a sense of relief knowing your garden is capable of supporting and protecting your home.



Repeatedly, Australian bushland and native landscapes prove their strength after being burnt with recovery naturally occurring over time.

### So how is a fire resilient garden created?

The Wildflower Whisperer, Sue Dempster of Western Wildflower Gardens shares her knowledge on designing a fire resilient garden in the next edition (of newspaper). It will explore the importance of positioning larger trees around the house whilst bringing smaller, colourful shrubs into key locations. Identifying plants capable of regeneration through their layers of bark after a passing fire and learning about the root systems permitting such regeneration, is an essential piece of knowledge accompanied with general cleaning tips and tricks as expressed by Sue Dempster.

All of these efforts and many more, are crucial in protecting your home from an approaching fire therefore designing your garden with the help of Western Wildflower Gardens could be key in saving your home.

To register your interest in the Fire Resilient Garden Workshop during August, email [event@westernwildflowergardens.com.au](mailto:event@westernwildflowergardens.com.au).

---

## KDHS Clean Up Australia Day

Years 1/2 from Mrs Cussons 'Great Outdoors' Clubs Group participated in a Clean Up Australia Day event run by the Shire of Kojonup's NRM/Landcare Officer, Jane Kowald.

Mrs Kowald explained why it was important to dispose of rubbish correctly and helped the kids sort some rubbish into Landfill, Recycle or Reuse piles. With help from community member, Katie OHalloran, and Education Assistant Trish Brown, the children enthusiastically collected rubbish from the school grounds.

Many thanks to Mrs Cussons for sharing her wonderfully mannered class!





## Friends of Myrtle Benn Out and About 2020

The Friends of Myrtle Benn meet on the first Wednesday of the month working to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the Myrtle Benn Flora and Fauna sanctuary.

This month the group worked in the bush opposite the cemetery, removing seedlings of the Golden Wattle, Black Wattle and Flinders Range Wattle that have grown since first removing trees in February 2018. They also commenced raking away debris from the base of large white gums that are important places for birds and mammals to live, to protect them from fire.

The group will meet again at 8:30am Wednesday the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020, meeting at the cemetery car park. New or interested community members are welcome to attend, no experience necessary!



*Shire of Kojonup Garden Crew's Latasah Hira raking underneath a White Gum.*

# Help Protect our Emergency Services Volunteers



With a number of wildfires, summer storms and car accidents the start to 2020 has been extremely busy for all of our emergency services volunteers and unfortunately there has also been a number of reports of where these important community members have been put at risk by speeding cars pass them as the go about their work on the road side.

The Community have a role in keeping our Emergency Services volunteers and staff safe while they are responding to incidents on our roads. This is why State Government introduced the Slow Down M& Move Over (SLOMO) law in 2018 to improve the road safety of people attending roadside emergencies in Western Australia.

The law requires motorists to reduce speed to a maximum of 40km/h when passing incident response vehicles with flashing lights and, where possible and safe to do so, move to the next lane.

Moving forward to help educate the community about what they can do to help keep our Emergency Services safe RoadWise will be encouraging Local Governments and community groups throughout the region to distribute information about the laws via their social media and newsletters.

More information about the reasons for the SLOMO laws and what is required on motorists can be found on the Road Safety Commissions website <https://www.rsc.wa.gov.au/Rules-Penalties/Browse/Emergency-Vehicles>



Toilets 

**Temporarily  
Closed**

To enable additional cleaning, the Shire of Kojonup has made the following temporary changes:

**Cleaning increased to TWICE per day:**

**Apex Park**

**Sporting Complex (downstairs)**

**The Kodja Place**

**Public Toilets temporarily closed:**

**Harrison Place;**

**Netball Courts; and**

**The Spring.**

## **DROUGHT: WE ARE WITH YOU**

Up to \$3,000 per household is available to farmers, farm workers and farm suppliers/contractors who are over 18 years of age, are Australian citizens or permanent residents, and who live or work in an eligible Local Government Area.

This is funded by the Australian Government's Drought Community Support Initiative (Round 2).

The drought helpline is open 6am - 6pm, Monday to Friday.

The online application process is quick and simple.



Australian Government  
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,  
Cities and Regional Development



St Vincent de Paul Society  
*good works*

To find out more please call **1300 846 643**  
[www.vinnies.org.au/droughthelp](http://www.vinnies.org.au/droughthelp)



## POSITIONS VACANT

## ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

(\$59,815p.a. pro rata)



The Shire of Kojonup is looking for a highly organised and enthusiastic individual to join our Regulatory and Technical Services team. Under the direction of the Development Services Coordinator, the successful applicant will be responsible for ensuring the timely processing of development, health and building applications and other duties as appropriate. High attention to detail, a friendly disposition, great time management skills, a commitment to continuous improvement and the desire to work as part of a close knit team are attributes required for this rewarding position.

This permanent part time position (14 hours per week (\$30.27/hour)) is offered in accordance with Level 3 of the All of Staff Agreement 2011 and the Local Government Officer's Award (WA).

Applications are to be addressed to the undersigned and close at 4.00pm on Monday 30 March 2020. To obtain a copy of the information package please go to our website [www.kojonup.wa.gov.au](http://www.kojonup.wa.gov.au) or for further information about the position, contact Michelle Dennis, Development Services Coordinator via email [health@kojonup.wa.gov.au](mailto:health@kojonup.wa.gov.au) or telephone (08) 9831 2424.

---

## RECORDS/ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

This full time position would suit a highly organised and productive individual to undertake our records management function.

The successful applicant will be responsible for undertaking daily records management duties, relief customer service duties and coordinating the review of existing community and corporate plans. The Shire has also begun to embark on implementing the move to full electronic records and the successful applicant with lead this project within a defined timetable. Ideally applicants will possess previous experience in local government, however this is not essential.

This position is offered in accordance with level 4 of the All of Staff Agreement 2011 (\$63,223p.a. - \$65,316p.a.) and the Local Government Industry Award 2010, dependent on previous experience.

Applications are to be addressed to the undersigned and close on Friday, 27 March 2020. To obtain a copy of the information package please go to our website [www.kojonup.wa.gov.au](http://www.kojonup.wa.gov.au) or for further information about the position, please contact Anthony Middleton, Manager Corporate & Community Services via email [mcs@kojonup.wa.gov.au](mailto:mcs@kojonup.wa.gov.au) or telephone (08) 9831 2405.

Rick Mitchell-Collins  
Chief Executive Officer

