SHIRE OF KOJONUP E-NEWS

Edition 205 – 5 February 2021

COUNCIL BRIEFS

It is hard to believe that January has ended and Term 1 has commenced for children in the Great Southern Region, despite the COVID-19 lockdown in Perth, Peel and South West areas.

Council wishes returning and new students and teachers an exciting and fruitful year.

Australia Day in Kojonup

Council extends its congratulations to the Kojonup Lions Club, Australia Day recipient – Robert Sexton, nominees, and thank you to the community members who attended.

It was also pleasing to see more than 150 community members at the Swimming Pool Open Day enjoying a hamburger, hot chips or sausage prepared by the wonderful Kojonup Lions Club and participating in other activities that were available which was capably coordinated by the Corporate & Community Services team.

Thinking of Others

It is difficult to truly comprehend the scale of the Wooraloo and districts fire. The devastation from the fire is saddening with so many homes lost and the daunting task of rebuilding yet to come. Our thoughts are with everyone concerned including residents, business owners and firefighters. Hopefully West Australians will donate generously and when coupled with government assistance, may help ease the burden currently being experienced.

To donate to the Wooroloo and Hills Bushfire Appeal 2021 follow this link: https://appealswa.org.au/

Thank you to our emergency service and bush fire brigade volunteers who are always there when needed, especially through the harvest and school holiday period.

The Spring Concept Plan

The amended concept plan is now on display in the foyer of the Shire Administration Office and arrangements are being made to place a weather proof copy on the external wall of The Spring toilet block.

Works and Services are busy grading roads as a result of the heavy traffic that occurs during harvest.

The 2020/21 half yearly budget review will also be undertaken and continuation of our extensive works program.

We wish you a safe and productive 2021.



Shire President *John Benn*

Chief Executive Officer *Rick Mitchell-Collins*



You can receive this e-newsletter directly to your email address by registering at <u>council@kojonup.wa.gov.au</u>.

Council Meeting Dates for 2021

The first Council meeting will be held on 16 February 2021. As we are still operating under some COVID-19 restrictions, please note we have a digital option for submitting items for Public Question Time. An email can be sent to cmpqt@kojonup.wa.gov.au and the Manager Corporate and Community Services will table all correspondence received.

THE KODJA PLACE

What Our Visitors are Saying.....

"Jack was very funny. Great tour guide, lots of info, Thanks" Harrison and Deville Family *"Lovely, well set out and informative"* J & T Earle *"Interesting, amazing and funny. Jack was awesome. So much history here we never knew"* Sandra and Ziggy







Did you know?

Driver fatigue is very dangerous, especially on country roads when travelling long distances. To aid in preventing driver fatigue, FREE coffee or tea is available for drivers at The Kodja Place and Kojonup Visitor Centre, 9am – 4pm, 7 days a week closed Christmas day.

French Nougat is now in stock at the Kojonup Visitor Centre. All of the ingredients are sourced within the Great Southern region. The Nougat is made and hand cut by the Great Southern Nougat Company, formally known as Mount Barker French Patisserie. These would make a perfect little treat for your loved one on Valentine's Day.





CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Library News

If you are new to town and would like to know more about joining our library, please have a chat with Lorreen or Kerry at the library, call on 9831 2412 or email library@kojonup.wa.gov.au

The <u>Western Australian Premier's Book Awards</u> closing date is extended until 15 February (5 PM WST). That's an extra week to apply for the \$60,000 Writers Fellowship!

The Fellowship is designed to assist a Western Australian writer, of any style or genre, to develop their writing practice and give them the time to create new work in a one year time period.

The Emerging Writer and Children's' Book awards also get an extension!

The Daisy Utemorrah Award for Unpublished Indigenous Junior and YA (\$15,000 and a publishing contract with Magabala Books) will still close 30 April.

See the Magabala Books website for more details.



Happy writing!

Wow! The start of a whole new school year for many of the children in our community, we hope you've all enjoyed your 'first day' or 'first day' back at school!





Books are food for the mind and soul for anyone who loves to read. By accessing our eBooks and Audiobooks, you can read or listen to a book any time of the day or night, for free! eBooks & Audiobooks are available anywhere anytime from most digital devices - smart phones, tablets, ipads, and computers.

We understand not everyone is a member of our local library, therefore cannot access BorrowBox & Libby, but if you would like to access the new ePlatform of eBooks & eAudio's, we are here to help please 9831 2412 for asisstance.



Whats new on our shelves?

New Books/DVD's/Audio's:





SHIRE OF KOJONUP



To our generous book and DVD donors.

These donations ensure our library has a great choice that is constantly changing. Some new, some old and some great classics too.

We try to use all our donations but we also support the 'Free Little Library' at the Kojonup Park with books and others.



Kojonup Library

VALENTINE'S DAY

Library Lovers' Day is an annual opportunity for people to celebrate the valuable role that libraries play in their lives – and 2021 will be all the more special. The theme for Library Lovers' Day 2021 is 'Make a date with your library'.

> Join us anytime on Friday 12th February -Monday 15th February 2021 for a cuppa & cake





'Play Café' is for all families with children aged 0-5 years, but really aimed for those children

pre kindy with activities and crafts - FREE

'**Play in the Park'** is held on the 4th Wednesday of each school month, at Kojonup Park from 9.30am-11.30am. Make sure you bring your hats and water bottles.

'Story Time' is for all who enjoy the gift of Children's picture books.

STOP!! Let's keep everyone safe & well.

Please remember, if you or your children are feeling unwell, we respectfully request you stay at home until you are feeling well again.

Corporate and Community Services

Practical Driving Assessments

The next practical driving Assessor will be visiting Kojonup on

Wednesday 3 and Wednesday 31 of March 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

LED

2021 SCHEDULE

'PLAY CAFÉ'

Wednesday's @ KDHS Kindy room

9.30am - 11.30am

February - 10 & 17

March - 3rd, 10, 17 & 31

April – 21 May – 5, 12 & 19 June – 2, 9, 16 & 30

'PLAY in the PARK'

Wednesday's @ Kojonup Park

9.30am - 11.30am

February – 24 March – 24

> April – 28 May – 26 June – 23

'STORY TIME' Friday's @ Library

10.30am – 11am February – 19 March – 5 & 19

> April – 23 May – 7 & 21

June - 4 & 18

July 2

Kojonup

Inaugural Corporate Swim Challenge Open for Nominations!



As we head towards the end of the Swimming Pool season, we thought we would finish with an exciting challenge for our community.

The Details:

Corporate Swim Challenge - Swim to Albany as a team, every lap counts!

- Starting Monday 15 February through until Friday 26 March 2021
- Find yourself three likeminded co-workers or mates to make a team of 4
- Register your team name and members with Gavin at the pool, or by contacting Emily at the Shire office via <u>sro@kojonup.wa.gov.au</u> or 98312400
- No cost for registering a team, just your pool entry fees per swim
- Head to the pool at any point during opening hours, by yourself or with your team mates, and start swimming!
- As this is a bit of fun, there won't be restrictions imposed on things like flippers/fins, snorkels, hand paddles or buoyancy items. As long as you are in the pool, and touch the end to complete each lap, you're good to go!

Tally your laps on the sheet, and see how far your team can get in 5 weeks. Bragging rights and the first name on the trophy for the winning team!



Works and Services



Residents may notice that the oval has not been watered recently.

The irrigation of the oval is currently switched off while the main line is being repaired.

Staff have been investigating the fault and are planning to install the new parts before the end of the week.





Kojonup Brook Realignment







It's great to see a smile on the faces of our team members and contractors who work in all extremes of weather to get the job done.

Please take care when driving in the vicinity of Kojonup Park as works continue on the Kojonup Brook realignment including the recent installation of a new water tank, and forming up the improved car park prior to sealing.

The playground is open and alternative parking can be found at the RSL Hall. Part of the works will also include a new footbridge.

This project forms part of the Drought Communities Program Funding.

Great job. Well done everyone!

If you have any queries, please contact Craig McVee, Manager Works and Services on 0427 427854.



Waste Collection





Shire of Kojonup Rubbish And Recycling Collection Dates

> Rubbish and Friday, February 12 2021

> **Rubbish Only** Friday, February 19 2021

Landcare

Got weeds? Send us a photo!

Identifying a weed is one of the most important components in understanding how to best take action.

Researchers from the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions, CSIRO and NSW DPI are currently in the process of building a weeds ID smart phone app where you will be able to point and shoot, and the app will then give you an idea of what the weed is you need you to manage, and more importantly how to manage it.

However, to build the app, the research team need to teach the system AND photos are the data!



They are seeking photos of weeds, which you can easily send us using the online form via the link below. On this same webpage you can learn more about the types of photos needed for each species and how your photos will be used.

The photos don't need to be professionally shot but the plant does need to be clearly identifiable, so it is best to not have other plants obstructing parts of the stem, leaves or flowers. **If necessary, bend other vegetation out of the way to make a clear view of the subject plant.**



Media Statement: Watersmart Farms funding to drive on-farm desalination

Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLC

Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food; Ports; Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade

- McGowan Government's new \$1.5 million Watersmart Farms project to research sustainable water supply options and optimise on-farm desalinisation technology
- Project to help build self-sufficient, drought resilient WA farms
- The McGowan Government has allocated \$1.5 million towards a new project supporting Western Australian farmers to adopt self-sufficient water supply systems and build long-term drought resilience.

The Watersmart Farms project facilitates the rapid, widespread adoption of on-farm desalinisation plants in agricultural regions to process brackish groundwater into a suitable resource for livestock, crop agronomy and other agribusiness activities.



The project seeks to optimise desalinisation technology and its application in the Wheatbelt and Great Southern regions, including assessing the technology, economics and systems, identifying suitable groundwater resources and investigating options for the disposal of brine.

Researchers will examine how to improve farm dams and catchments to provide water in dry periods, including undertaking a targeted drilling exploration program to locate suitable groundwater for desalinisation trials.

The project aims to attract future co-investment to support the development and adoption of innovative and sustainable water supply options.

Minister's office - 6552 6200

COMMUNITY NEWS AND POSITIONS VACANT





Applications for 2021 Census Field Managers are now open!

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is now recruiting 2,665 Census Field Managers for the 2021 Census which will be held on 10 August 2021.

The roles are short-term and available in all major cities and regional areas nationwide. The working hours are variable and will include weekdays, weekends and evenings.



Each Field Manager has responsibility for training, leading and managing a team of up to 12 Field Officers in their local area. Field Managers will be recruited locally to ensure they are familiar with the local area, where it is possible to do so.

Field Managers will earn \$36.90 per hour (inclusive of 25% loading), plus superannuation. Employment contracts are from 6 May 2021 until 3 October 2021.

Applicants for Census Field Managers must have experience training and supervising small teams. You must also have access to a computer and mobile device with reliable internet connection, a current driver's license, and access to a registered and insured vehicle.

You must have a safe and lockable area at your residence to store Census materials.

If you have experience training and supervising small teams and you're keen to tell your community's story, view the applicant information kit and apply now. Applicants are encouraged to apply early as jobs are expected to fill quickly.

The Adecco Group is managing the recruitment on behalf of the ABS.

To apply for a 2021 Census Field Manager (formerly Area Supervisor) role, go to <u>https://censusjobs.adecco.com.au</u> and submit your application online.

If you are interested in one of our 2021 Census Field Officer roles coming up in July and August 2021, you can also submit an application online at https://censusjobs.adecco.com.au and you will be contacted in April 2021 when the recruitment selection process commences.

Please tell your friends and family about these job opportunities to earn extra income and help tell their community's story.

Job seekers from diverse population groups, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

For any enquires regarding the positions, please contact the Adecco group on 1300 233 445 or email <u>enquiries@censusjobs.adecco.com.au</u>



COVID-19 Information Update



Transitional restrictions for Perth & Peel

Starting 6:00pm, Friday 5 February until 12:01am, Sunday 14 February



Pending ongoing testing results and expert health advice

NOTE: the South West will return immediately to pre-lockdown conditions at 6:00pm Friday 5 February

Under WA's post-lockdown transition plan, stay-at-home rules will be lifted, but the following interim restrictions will apply:

Businesses & venues



All businesses and venues which closed can re-open, except for the casino and nightclubs. Playgrounds can reopen.



150

capacity

limit

The 4 square metre capacity rule will be in place for most venues.

Maximum of 150 people applies to: - patrons at hospitality, entertainment

- and fitness venues (excluding staff)
- people at weddings and funerals
- people at community sport



Seated service may recommence for hospitality venues. Dancing only permitted for weddings

and dance studios.

Schools



Schools will reopen.

Term 1 at WA public schools will commence Monday 8 February. **Masks required** for staff at all schools, and for students in secondary schools. **Masks are not required** for primary school students.

Teachers may remove masks while conducting a class.

Private gatherings



Private indoor and outdoor gatherings limited to 20 people.

Masks



Masks required in public, including at work, except for vigorous outdoor exercise or if exempt.

Health and Aged Care



Elective surgery will return to normal arrangements.

Visitors and clinical students permitted at hospitals.

Visits at aged and disability facilities remain restricted to compassionate grounds.

Travel



Leaving the Perth-Peel region is restricted to essential purposes.

Travel for work purposes is permitted, including for FIFO workers. People leaving the Perth-Peel region are required to wear masks until 14 February.



The 2021 State General Election



As part of their COVIDSafe voting plan for the 2021 State general election, the Western Australian Electoral Commission (WAEC) is encouraging everyone who has concerns about attending a polling place to vote prior to Election Day, either by postal vote or at an Early Voting Centre.

If there is an incident of community transmission of COVID-19 in WA leading up to or at the time of the election, the WAEC will follow the instructions and requirements of the Department of Health to determine the most appropriate steps.

More information is available on the Western Australian Electoral Commission website.

<u>SafeWA</u>

There has been an expansion of the list of businesses and venues required to maintain a contact register. As of 6am on 2 February 2021, places added to the list include:



• Retail venues (including supermarkets, department stores, shopping centres, pharmacies, hardware and department stores) and retail components of other businesses where customers are physically present such as bank branches;

• Commercial buses or vessels that can carry 12 or more people where different groups of people interact (party buses, wine and food tour buses, hop on/hop off tour buses, sightseeing tours, party/function boats, sightseeing/tour boats, private charter buses/boats);

• Public and private hospitals (visitors only - persons visiting patients, or attending meetings/lectures, couriers, and contractors);

• Takeaway food and beverage services;

• Events with a COVID Event Plan (500+ patrons), and certain outdoor functions and gatherings of under 500 people (e.g. weddings, corporate functions, fetes, festivals).

It is now also mandatory for businesses to use the <u>SafeWA</u> app as the electronic recording system for contact information.

Resources to help business promote and implement <u>SafeWA</u> and paper-based contact registers are available on the WA Government's contact registers stakeholder toolkit webpage. This includes paper-based contact register templates, information posters and how-to guides. Resources for businesses on mandatory contact registers is available in 27 languages.

COVID-19 WA Public Information Line: 132 6843 (13 COVID)

