

SHIRE OF KOJONUP E-NEWS

Edition 232 – 22 April 2022

Shire of Kojonup past Presidents – 12 April 2022








*From Left to Right: Veronica Fleay (2013-2019), Jane Trethowan (2011-2013), Arnold Bilney (1989 – 1993), Robert Sexton (1983-1988, 1995-1999), Jill Mathwin (2005 – 2011), John Benn (2019 – 2021)
(Absent – Malcom Watson (2003-2005) and current President Ned Radford)*

What an honour to have had these past presidents in one room, and to gift them with “Kojonup 150th anniversary” medallions. Stories and memories were shared and lots of laughs were had by all. These medallions were to recognized their past leadership roles in our community.

In the words of our CEO, Grant Thompson “I think Kojonup is a fantastic community, and residents should be proud their community is totally invested in their future”

COUNCIL BRIEFS

	<p>The Kojonup Golf Club Request for funds to upgrade the Golf Club House was granted and these changes will be taking place in conjunction with the Shire's Building Maintenance Coordinator.</p>
	<p>RSPCA WA – Pet Sterilisation Programme wishes The Council adopts the partnership with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Western Australia (RSPCA WA) in offering free lifetime dog registrations to local participants of the RSPCA WA's Pet Sterilisation Program.</p>
	<p>The Natural Resource Management Advisory requests That the Council schedules a meeting of its Natural Resource Management Advisory Committee to be held at the Shire of Kojonup Administration Reception Lounge on 24 June 2022 at 9.30am and that this meeting be advertised accordingly</p>
	<p>Shire 150th Celebrations – 12 April 2022 The Council held the April 2022 Council meeting in the Memorial Hall to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Shire.</p>
	<p>Subdivision of a portion of Lot 9999 Thornbury Close The Council progresses the subdivision of a portion of Lot 9999 Thornbury Close, Kojonup, to create a new lot of approximately 1.8 hectares.</p>

Ned Radford
Shire President

Grant Thompson
Chief Executive Officer

Ordinary Council Meeting and Council Advisory Committee Meeting Dates – 2022

Council has scheduled its Ordinary Meeting and Advisory Committee Meeting dates for 2022 – please see below for details of place, dates, and times.

ORDINARY MEETINGS OF COUNCIL 2022 MEETING DATES

Ordinary Meetings of Council for 2022 are scheduled (unless advertised otherwise) to be held in the Shire of Kojonup Council Chambers, 93 Albany Highway, Kojonup commencing at 3.00pm, for the following dates:

- 17 May 2022
- 21 June 2022
- 26 July 2022
- 16 August 2022
- 20 September 2022
- 18 October 2022
- 15 November 2022
- 13 December 2022

ADVISORY COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL 2022 MEETING DATES

Meetings of Advisory Committees of Council for 2022 are scheduled (unless advertised otherwise) to meet in the Shire of Kojonup Administration Reception Lounge, 93 Albany Highway, Kojonup, as follows:

Audit and Risk Committee (commencing at 9.00am):

- 3 May 2022
- 2 August 2022
- 1 November 2022

Natural Resource Management Advisory Committee (commencing at 9:30 am):

- 24 June 2022

Bush Fire Advisory Committee (commencing at 7.30pm):

- 11 August 2022

Local Emergency Management Committee (commencing 09:30am):

- 9 August 2022



The Shire of Kojonup's Restricted Fire Season has ended. Permits to burn are no longer required after this time.

We ask that farmers in the Southern area of the Shire please be aware that grape harvesting will still be continuing for another week or two. If you could please control any smoke drifts over vineyards.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to assist and help during our Bushfire Season, and who continues to help make our Shire a safe environment.

The Shire of Kojonup is assisting the Dept of Health with the distribution of their Pulse Oximeters to our region.

This is to assist the Kojonup residents with Covid-19 preparedness. If you become Covid-19 positive, you may need to be remotely monitored through the WA Covid Care at Home Program. By having a pulse oximeter already in your home, a health professional can assess you and provide advice in the comfort of your home.

Are you non-Aboriginal and over 65?

Are you Aboriginal and over 50?

Are you pregnant?

Pulse Oximeters will enable vulnerable people who contract COVID-19 to measure their oxygen levels from the safety of their home, allowing them to be monitored remotely rather than from hospital. It is a small, peg-like device that clips onto your fingertip to read your heart rate and blood oxygen level. It takes only one minute to work, is reusable and can be shared between other people in your household.

DO NOT pick up a Pulse oximeter if you are already COVID-19 positive. The Department of Health will contact you and provide further information.

Call the Shire of Kojonup at 9831 2400 to book your Pulse Oximeter and arrange for pickup.

FROM OUR RANGER

Dogs off lead

Did you know that if you are taking your dog for a walk, it must be on a lead at all times unless in a prescribed off lead exercise area?



This law is in place to protect other members of the public and your pet from injury.

Why is it best to walk my dog on a lead?



It's a great neighbour policy, as it prevents your dog from trespassing on the neighbour's property during your walk. It also keeps your dog from jumping on people you encounter, ensuring that your dog has the chance of being properly introduced.



Improved companionship. A well trained and lead-obedient dog is a pleasure to walk with.



Walking your dog on a lead will prevent the spread of disease. It is less likely that your dog will be exposed to Parvovirus or other diseases. A leashed dog can be restrained from sniffing the droppings of other animals.



A lead is commonly referred to as "Your Pet's Lifeline," protecting your pet from traffic and unrestrained animals. Accidents or animal bites are greatly reduced when responsible dog owners obey the law.



It's a great way to reward your dog. Your dog will immediately respond with a wagging tail the moment he or she sees you holding the lead.



It's a great identification tool, symbolizing that the dog has an owner if you become separated during an outing, as a finder will see the lead and identification tag attached to the dog's collar to find you.



It's a great relief to wildlife, by keeping your dog from chasing them.

Where should my dog be on a lead?

In all public places, including footpaths, roads and verges, carparks, fuel stations, rest areas and playgrounds that are not dog prohibited areas

What is the penalty for walking my dog off lead in a public place?

By committing a dog off lead offence, you are liable for a \$200.00 penalty. This is an offence under Section 31(3) of the Dog Act 1976.

How do I know if an area is off lead?

All prescribed off lead areas are signed as such and usually include the town oval or designated parks. If you ever are unsure, contact the Shire Regulatory Services on 9831 2400 and our friendly customer service team will be able to assist you.



Stop @ **The Kodja Place** for a free coffee to avoid driver fatigue

WA Tree Festival

Through the month of April, the Shire of Kojonup are promoting Trees as part of the WA tree festival.

WA Tree Festival is based on successful model run in London over the past four years, where multiple UK local governments promote their tree events, awareness and education initiatives - creating an annual celebration of trees.

On the 12th of April the Parks and Gardens Team set up craft activities for Children at APEX park using native tree material.

Seed pods were collected and donated by Cape Life, a revegetation company and branches and other material were collected locally to use.

Children's imaginations ran wild with wind chimes, dream catchers, insects, bush shelters, tools and fairy wands being made from the material.

A self-guided walk along Kojonup creek has also been organised as part of the festival showcasing some native and introduced trees.





Kojonup Wind Farm



Last week, [BHP signed a deal to buy the power from the farm](#), with construction set to begin this July. It will be operational by the end of 2023. Renewable energy developer Moonies Hill is behind the project, which will include 18 turbines up to 200 meters high – making them the biggest in WA.

To watch this article please visit - [BHP rolls out \\$200m wind farm in WA - ABC News](#)

Shire of Kojonup throws support behind Moonies Hill Energy's Flat

Rock wind farm - [Shire of Kojonup throws support behind Moonies Hill Energy's Flat Rock wind farm - ABC News](#)

The chief executive of the Kojonup Shire in Western Australia's Great Southern region says he is happy the area will be part of the nation's shift towards renewable energy.

Key points:

- **A Kojonup farmer, Rowan Thorn, who will host turbines on his land says the development is part of the bigger picture.**
- **Shire chief executive officer Grant Thompson says 120 jobs will be created during the construction of the farm.**
- **He says the development could help to attract new people to the region.**

Last week BHP announced it would buy energy from the Flat Rocks wind farm south of Kojonup. Construction is to begin in July and the farm, which will feature eighteen 200-metre-high turbines, is expected to be operational by the end of 2023.

Kojonup Shire chief executive Grant Thompson said he was "happy to support" the project. "We're in a new paradigm and we are moving to a new future," he said.

Mr Thompson said he expected 120 jobs to be created during the construction and that the completed farm would offer 10 ongoing roles. "That's families coming into the region and settling into Kojonup and Tambellup," he said.

Mr Thompson said there was always going to be small pockets of division and concern. "At the end of the day, the project benefits are going to outweigh any of the risks," he said.

Kojonup farmer Rohan Thorn has agreed to lease a part of his land for the turbines. Mr Thorn, whose parents own shares in the farm's developer, Moonies Hill Energy, says he views the project as part of the bigger picture.

"A lot of people have this 'not in my backyard attitude' — 'I don't want to see turbines, but I don't want to see a coal mine in my backyard either,'" he said.

"But if not here, then who? "I see it as a reminder that we're doing something good here."

Mr Thorn said he could see the direct impact climate change was having on the environment. "It can get depressing, sometimes, thinking about how quickly things have changed in our lifetime," he said.

"We've all got to do our part."

LIBRARY

Play Cafe Dates for Term 2

Play Cafe is held every Wednesday morning at the Kojonup Apex Park from 9:30am-11:30am, unless it is raining, then you will find us set up in the Kojonup RSL Hall, just over the footbridge.

Play Cafe is a free community event for families with children under 5 years of age. Libby & Lorreen provide sand toys, activities and fresh fruit to share.

Please bring your hats and water bottles for your family. We also endeavour to do a coffee run, so please leave your money and name in the envelope if you'd like a coffee, at the time for checking in.



This was our last Wednesday for Term 1. Looking back, we've had great fun filled days, super activities, lots of laughs and great conversations. Please introduce yourself if you're a new Play Cafe family or please say hi to those you don't know. We aim for an inclusive, friendly group of families.

New dates:

4/11/18/25 May 2022

2/8/15/22/29 June 2022

Iso pack

If you are in isolation at home with a child under 4 years, please call Lorreen on 9831 2412 and I will get a little 'iso pack' to help keep him/her busy whilst recovering. It's so important to remember in a small community how each & everyone is important! We need to remember to care for ourselves as well as our families and neighbours.

Honouring a special resident – Dawn Norrish

At an afternoon tea function held 12th April 2022, recognising Dawn Norrish as a recipient of an Order of Australia Medal at this year's Australia Day Awards. Dawn was gifted with a Kings Park Special bottlebrush shrub and a limited-edition silver medallion commemorating the Shire of Kojonup's 150th anniversary.

2022 OAM Winner



Records and Archives



Flying of flags: ANZAC Day

Monday 25 April 2022

Anzac Day is a day of special significance to all Australians, particularly for our serving military personnel and returned veterans.

In accordance with Australian flag protocol, the Australian National Flag should be flown at half-mast on Monday 25 April 2022, from dawn until noon in your locality, at which time the flag should be raised to the peak of the flag mast for the remainder of the day. It is not appropriate to move the flag to the half-mast position the previous evening.

Also, in accordance with protocol, all flags and ensigns at each flag station should be flown at half-mast. However, if it is the custom to fly the flags of other nations at your flag station, it would be appropriate to seek permission from the diplomatic representatives of that nation to half-mast their flag.

This advice applies to buildings and establishments occupied by Western Australian Government departments and affiliated agencies. Other organisations are also encouraged to participate.

The financial and staffing implications arising from public holiday flag marshal duties are the responsibility of each organisation.

If further information is required, please contact Protocol and State Events on 61 8 6552 6333 or visit the [Australian National Flag protocols page](#) at the following website.

The Shire of Kojonup was gazetted in 1871, and the first meeting took place later in 1872.



The article below was sent to us by Jill Mathwin, She kept this article from the Great Southern Herald from the 17th of June 1987.

jmathwin



Now Lucien can relax

By PAULINE STAPLES

MOST people would find the idea of Kojonup's elderly citizens enjoying a fast and furious game of football incredible.

But according to 90-year-old Springhaven Lodge resident Lucien MacBride proposed recreation facilities planned for the lodge will provide room for just that.

"We may want a game of rugby or Aussie rules," says the spritely senior citizen.

But in a more serious tone he admits non-physical games are his preference.

Indoor bowls or a mind-taxing game of croquet or cards is more likely to be held in the proposed recreation room.

'Selfless'

The Friends of Springhaven Committee is currently raising funds to build the facility.

The lodge has 22 rooms, catering for 16 residents, but it has no room set aside for recreation.

Mr MacBride describes the Friends of Springhaven as a lively committee of selfless workers.

• More page 2



MR MacBride recalls fond memories of his and Kojonup's past.



Now Lucien can relax

• From page 1

"They have done much for the lodge and its residents since I've been here," he says.

"But," he says with a wink, "I was a little upset they did not ask me to be a model at their recent fund-raising fashion parade."

Mr MacBride moved to Springhaven in August, 1984, three years after the Kojonup Shire Council officially opened the lodge.

He now spends most of his time reading or contributing to the social activities of his "home".

He plans to "hang on" at the lodge until well into the 21st century.

"Then I will have seen three centuries, the 19th, 20th and 21st," he says.

"It will be quite remarkable.

"But I can't really say I have made any notable contributions towards the enhancement of the community."

But as Mr MacBride reflects on his and Kojonup's past, it is obvious he is being more than a little modest.

After a spell as a jackaroo in the Murchison River district, a stint in the army — he

was the fifth military district finance officer — and 18 months "business experience" in Victoria, he applied for the position as secretary of the Kojonup Road Board.

Mr MacBride was appointed to the position in June, 1935, and served on the board for 27 years.

During that time he saw many changes in the Kojonup district.

He proudly says that Kojonup is now recognised as one of the leading wool-producing areas in WA.

"At one time we had the best equipped and organised volunteer bush fire brigade in the State," he says.

"Kojonup had an enviable reputation for the co-operation and voluntary work of its people.

"At one time there were 90 voluntary committees in the town, including service groups."

Progress

And although modest about admitting to it, Mr MacBride contributed much to Kojonup's progress.

As secretary of the board his extra duties also covered an area which included the towns of Katanning, Woodanilling, Broomehill, Tambellup, Gnowangerup, Mt Barker and Esperance.

His position often re-

closed at 4pm instead of 5pm.

"It was a fact that was widely publicised.

"Anyway at the public meeting, this resident stood up and said he had wandered past the office at 4pm and found it closed. He asked why this was so.

"And my reply, which brought down the house (with laughter), was — 'because I saw you coming'."

While in office Mr MacBride was prominent in helping set up many of the district's public services.

Those included connection to the State electricity system, extension of the comprehensive water scheme from Katanning to Kojonup and setting up the school bus organisation.

Library

But his favourite project was introducing the State library scheme to Kojonup.

Mr MacBride, a keen reader, was the first to borrow two books in the district under the scheme.

He also was the last Kojonup Road Board secretary and the first shire clerk when the district became the Kojonup Shire in 1961.

Mr MacBride retired in April 1962 and has since been content to take a

less active role in the town's progress.

Since moving to Springhaven Lodge, he says he has been able to read more and have time for leisurely walks.

"I usually take a walk around the lodge and cogitate," he says.

And he says Springhaven Lodge provides a family atmosphere for its residents.

"The nursing staff here are terrific.

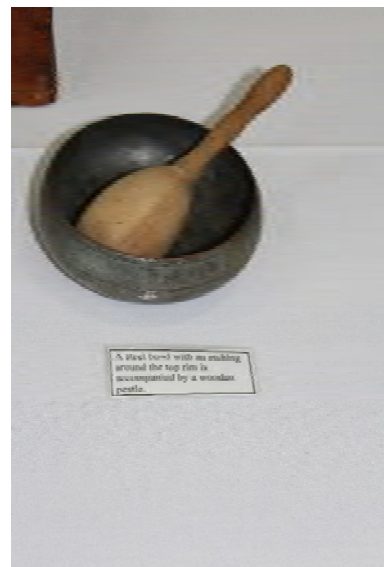
"I rate them 101 out of

100 for their efficiency and charm.

"They don't try and boss me around and they look after me well."

Then, as the lunch gong sounds and Mr MacBride literally leaps to his feet and prepares to head towards the dining room, he says: "I've enjoyed recounting some of my memories."

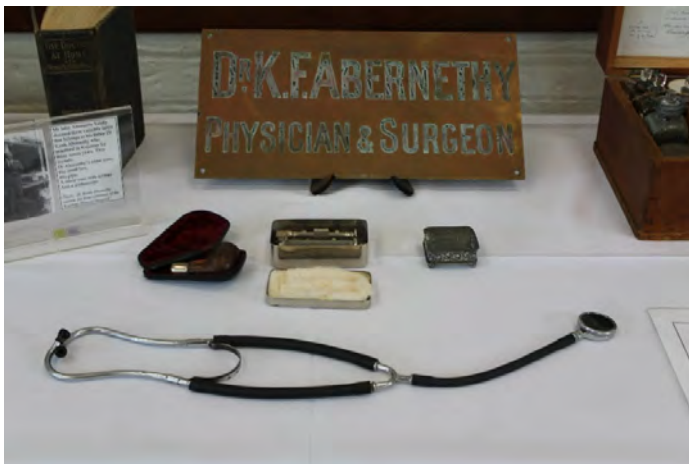
"You'll find when you are my age, memories are a valuable treasure."





Kojonup Hospital

Established in 1922



Kojonup Theatrical Society

If you would like to be involved in this year's production of Lets Get Quizzical, the quiz night which isn't a quiz night, head on down to Kojonup Memorial Hall, Lesser Hall, Monday 2nd May, 7pm.



[Parks and Wildlife Service, WA](#)

The McGowan Government is protecting our forests by ending large scale commercial timber harvesting in the South West from 2024.

If you enjoy bushwalking, birdwatching or have an interest in the future of WA's forest then we'd like to hear from you.

Have your say to help inform the development of the draft Forest Management Plan 2024-2033.

The pre-draft survey will take up to 30 minutes to complete and is open until 11:59pm Sunday 1 May 2022.





Kojonup Football Club

Is seeking a Goal Umpire for this home/away season

You'll be offered adequate remuneration and have the opportunity to be part of an inclusive and vibrant community club

Please contact 0439 311 460

Please note that all waste removal will take place as per normal irrespective of the public holidays!



Rubbish & Waste




A FUN-FILLED WAY TO LEARN HOCKEY!

Hockey WA's grassroots participation program - Goldstix, provides the opportunity to learn hockey in a fun, safe and inclusive environment.

Goldstix is available to run to any schools, clubs or associations - the Goldstix programs are completely adaptable to suit the requirements and preferences of the host school or club!

Participants can choose to include a brand-new Gryphon Goldstix pack with a hockey stick, ball, bag and shin pads with their Goldstix registration.

LOCATION: Kojonup Hockey Grounds, Benn Parade, Kojonup

DAY & TIME: Fridays at 3:15pm

START DATE: Friday 6 May

LENGTH OF PROGRAM: 7 weeks

COST: \$52.50 with equipment, \$20 without equipment

CONTACT: Dominique Magini 0439033031 or Katie Daw 0438321006

REGISTRATION LINK: www.revolutionise.com.au/kojonuphockey/registration



SPRINGHAVEN

HAS THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS AVAILABLE

- Personal Care Assistant - Full Time Night Shift
- Personal Care Assistant— Full Time Day Shift
- Registered Nurse

To find out more about these positions please go to www.kojonup.wa.gov.au/employment

Alternatively you can contact Ciara O'Regan - 9831 2800

All resumés should be emailed to council@kojonup.wa.gov.au or posted to 93-95 Albany Highway, Kojonup, 6395

— JOIN THE TEAM —
We're hiring!





Piano Magic - Promoting the love & care of pianos

Need your piano tuned?

Gary from the Piano Magic will be visiting from the 16th of May 2022

Contact them on Ph – 08 9477 5866

www.pianomagic.com.au

ANZAC KOJONUP SERVICE

Kojonup Service 8 am

There will be a service held by the Kojonup RSL at the Kojonup RSL Memorial starting at 8 am sharp on Anzac Day 25th April 2022.

Due to covid there will not be a March down the street or the Gunfire Breakfast or a guest speaker. Robert Sexton will be MC and we will have the laying of Wreaths by the various groups and afterwards any personal wreaths also.

We have to observe social distancing and ask that you try and make the 2 square metre rule possible. Some chairs will be there for those who need to sit.



Lest We Forget

ANZAC MURADUP SERVICE

Muradup Service 10 am

The service will start at the usual time of 10 am on Anzac Day 25th April at the Muradup Memorial on Blackwood Road Muradup.

We ask that you observe the 2 square metre rule if attending. Robert Sexton will be the MC here. We will have the various groups laying wreaths and paying their respects as well as anyone who wishes to lay a personal wreath – you will be most welcome. There will not be any morning tea afterwards though due to covid protocols.

We have to observe social distancing and ask that you try and make the 2 square metre rule possible. Some chairs will be there for those who need to sit.



Road Works



Roadworks for April 2022

Works and Services

- Shamrock Road - Widening of road
- Riverdale Road - Culverts
- Kojonup-Broomehill Road - Road Sealing
- Spring Street - Road Sealing

Main Roads

Albany Highway - Between Kojonup-Katanning Road and Blackwood Road.

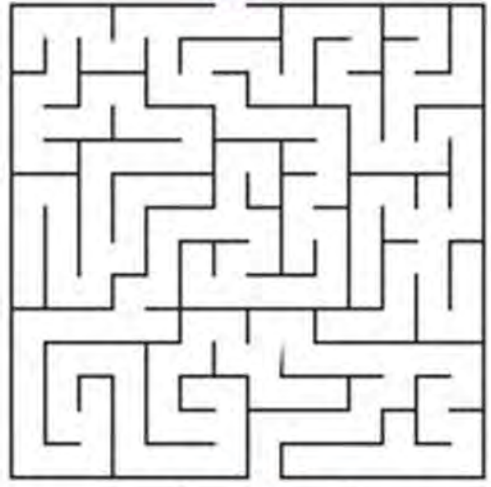
- The works will occur with one lane of the Albany Highway open to traffic at all times. Working hours will be 6am to 6pm

K I D S P A G E

Help Mr Chris P. Bacon get to the mud!



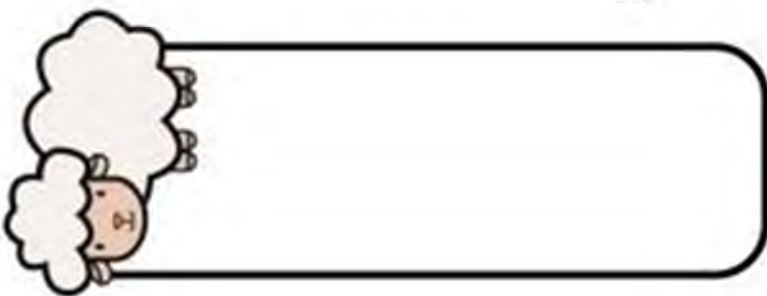
Join the dots to complete the Cow!



On the Farm

D	R	N	N	E	S	R	E	T	R	E	E	T	E
N	H	R	N	E	C	S	O	S	E	R	T	R	A
S	F	A	R	M	H	O	U	S	E	E	E	A	L
D	H	B	D	A	L	C	H	O	R	E	S	C	N
I	C	M	G	S	U	S	A	D	D	L	E	T	M
K	H	E	S	T	H	M	C	E	R	E	F	O	I
F	I	G	R	M	H	O	R	S	E	S	I	R	L
A	C	A	F	U	U	G	R	A	I	N	A	T	K
R	K	H	F	E	N	T	F	L	A	D	D	E	R
M	E	A	E	S	N	A	G	R	A	S	S	I	O
E	N	N	E	R	S	C	M	R	D	E	R	L	E
R	S	E	D	I	O	K	E	A	L	O	F	T	A
R	S	E	E	R	T	C	O	F	S	T	O	A	E
A	S	R	D	R	F	A	K	R	D	C	E	O	S

- SADDLE
- MILK
- ROCK
- GRAIN
- LADDER
- FARMHOUSE
- HORSE
- LOFT
- CHORES
- MANURE
- FARMER
- TOOLS
- TREES
- FEED
- BARN
- CHICKENS
- TRACTOR
- FENCE
- KIDS
- GRASS



Design your own bookmark!
(Ask an adult to help cut it out)



INFORMATION FOR DADS

ONLINE TIPS, RESOURCES & INFO ESPECIALLY FOR DADS

Click on links below...

Why Fathers Matter

The Fathering Project – New Fathering Research

Karitane – Dads make a difference

Websites for Fathers

Raising Children - Fathers

Direct advice for dads

Beyondblue.org.au – Dadvice for new dads

The-father-hood – dadlife



Podcasts for Dads

mrperfect – australian podcasts for dads

Agencies with Programs/Support for Fathers

Ngala – Phone support and information for parents

Relationships WA

The Fathering Project

Anglicare WA

Workshops/Programs for Dads and Parents Nearby

Programs for NW Metro (Perth and northern suburbs)

Shire of Mundaring, City of Swan, Town of Bassendean and City of Bayswater.

Communicare – Parenting Support Services: South East Metro

Meerilinga – Parenting courses and services: Southern Suburbs

Relationshipswa – Courses and workshops



Online Workshops/Programs

Birthing dads – For expecting and new fathers

SMS4dads – Receive free text messages, support, info & tips – especially for dads & dads-to-be

Support for fathers – Online webinars for dads

Parentshop – Online parenting course on guiding behaviour aimed at 2 years and above

Parentworks – Online course for dads with children 2 years and above



INFORMATION FOR DADS

TIPS, RESOURCES & INFO ESPECIALLY FOR DADS

Dads Groups

Hyde Park Dads
 Perth Home Dads
 Perth and WA Dads
 Mr Perfect
 Dads Group organisation Youtube
 Dads Group Website

Deadly Dads

Ngala – ngalang moort ngalang kurlangah
 Indigo Junction – strong-fathers
 Raising Children – Indigenous dads
 Stayin on track
 Parenting SA – being a dad
 Raising Children – Aboriginal parents: routines
 Raising Children – Aboriginal parents: supervision

Separated Dads

Lifeline – Support for separated parents
 Relationships WA – Fathering After Separation
 Groups – search for “separated dads” on facebook

General Support/Information for Men

Mensline – telephone and online counselling for men
 Mens family violence helpline
 Lifeline – 24 hour crisis support

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Beyondblue
 PANDA – Dads mental health and wellbeing
 Beyondblue – guide for new dads
 New dads mental health
 Red Nose – grief and loss support
 forwhen helpline – mental health help for expectant parents and parents of young babies



Disability Support

NDIS – Western Australia
 Autism – dads support groups
 Kalparrin
 Carers WA

Further information on support for fathers: contact DadsWA on DadsWA@ngala.com.au or [Ngala Parenting Line](https://www.ngala.com.au/parenting-line) on 08 9368 9368

You have an opportunity to have a say in Ngala’s work with parents. We are looking for fathering advocates. Go to [Ngala Consumer and Community Engagement](https://www.ngala.com.au/consumer-and-community-engagement)



Fence lines and roadside vegetation: guidelines for better management



This unnecessarily extreme clearing for fence replacement will result in poor biodiversity outcomes. Photo C. Wilson



Careful clearing to minimise the impact of replacing the fence. Photo C. Wilson

Roadside vegetation plays a very important role in maintaining the State's biodiversity, particularly in agricultural regions. In some areas it is often the only remaining natural vegetation left in the landscape, providing valuable habitat and linkages between bush patches. Across the southwest, roadside vegetation contains rare flora, with over 50% of these species having at least one population on a roadside, and a number being dependent on the roadsides for their survival. Our State's fauna also use roadside vegetation, either as part of their extended home range, or as their own highway to move throughout the landscape.

Roadside vegetation also has important benefits for Landholders. The existing vegetation, especially when it has structural diversity (trees, shrubs and ground covers), provides an excellent windbreak and shelterbelt, meaning better milk, wool and meat production from stock and higher crop yields. Existing woody vegetation is also very efficient at tapping into the water table, helping to keep water levels low, and therefore reducing the risk of secondary salinity and water logging.

Sadly roadside vegetation faces many threats. Clearing of the vegetation to erect and maintain boundary fences is one of these threats. It can have a dramatic effect, especially in road reserves where only a few meters width of vegetation remain. With this in mind, this VergeNote aims to highlight ways in which Landholders can work with road managers on fence line issues to ensure the continuity, longevity and health of roadside vegetation for personal, community and environmental benefits.

How can you help?

The installation of a new boundary fence can have a damaging impact on roadside vegetation. However, there are ways in which Landholders can minimise this impact, each with its own advantages.

Set the fence back into the paddock to avoid disturbing the adjacent vegetation in the road reserve through one of the following strategies:

- **Erect the new fence directly next to the old fence:** this option means that the old fence stays in position, reducing time and effort in removing it and the time and effort in having to clear vegetation back from the old fence to install the new one.
- **Erect the new fence 1.5m back from the old fence:** this option leaves the old fence in place and as with the above option reduces the time, effort and money spent on removing the old fence and clearing vegetation. This option allows for the establishment of a 1.5m fence maintenance zone without the need to clear any vegetation the first time around.
- **Erect the new fence 3m back from the old fence:** this option again, leaves the old fence in place with the above-mentioned benefits. In this case, however, there is room for the firebreak between the two fences. This is an option for maximising the benefits to the roadside vegetation while minimising the loss of productive ground and adding the protection of a firebreak to the fence without the need to disturb the roadside vegetation.
- **Enclose additional vegetation:** if there is additional vegetation on your side of the fence, then the best idea is to fence off that vegetation when redoing the fence to "add" it to the roadside vegetation. There are funding opportunities for fencing off remnant vegetation that may be accessible.
- **Revegetate adjacent to the road reserve:** with each of the above options, there is the opportunity to enhance the width and viability of the roadside vegetation. Planting locally native species adjacent to the road reserve will increase the value of the roadside vegetation, both as shelter, windbreaks and as habitat. Again, funding opportunities are available to assist in this.



Minimising the fence maintenance zone helps to preserve roadside vegetation. Photo C. Denton



Setting the fence back has created a fence maintenance zone without disturbing the native vegetation. Photo D. Mickle



Fencing off vegetation adjacent to the roadside vegetation improves habitat and biodiversity values. Photo C. Denton

Replace the fence on the original alignment. Should you decide to replace the fence on the original alignment, then please consider the following management strategies:

- **Minimise clearing:** please consider how much clearance you really need on the other side of the fence, both for maintenance and for installation. Minimising clearing will help to reduce weed growth and maximise the shelter and habitat values of the roadside vegetation. A maximum of 0.5m clearing should be adequate, if work is done from the property side.
- **Use a chainsaw:** using a bulldozer or other machinery makes it hard to minimise the extent of clearing. It also disturbs the soil, potentially resulting in compaction and weed invasion, both of which are detrimental to native vegetation.
- **Remove only branches:** most understorey plants, like shrubs and native grasses are unlikely to damage the fence. Therefore, removal of them is usually unnecessary when installing a new fence or maintaining an existing fence. It's best to only remove branches and dead material that is likely to fall onto the fence and damage it.

There are several other things that Landholders can do to reduce the impacts of farming on the roadside vegetation, including minimising spray drift, keeping firebreaks on the inside of fences and avoiding grazing during stock movement. These are outlined in the *VergeNote A Roadside Note for Landholders*, available from the RCC and via the RCC's website (an internet search for "Roadside Conservation Committee" will take you there).

So where's my boundary?

Setting your fence back doesn't mean that the Shire or Main Roads gets more land. If you are worried about maintaining an identifiable boundary after repositioning the fence, leave the old fence in place. With or without the wire, the posts should continue to stand for many years to come, thus identifying the boundary. Alternatively, speak to the Shire or Main Roads about having a written agreement or acknowledgement of the new fence alignment, to ensure that the arrangement is documented.

Legalities of clearing

Under the clearing provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* and the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004, certain clearing to install or maintain existing fence lines may be undertaken without the requirement for a clearing permit, provided the area is not within an environmentally sensitive area declared by the Minister for the Environment and permission has been obtained from the managing authority of the roadside on which any clearing is to occur. Further information on fence line clearing and a map viewer for environmentally sensitive areas can be found at www.dec.wa.gov.au/nvc or by contacting the Department of Environment and Conservation on (08) 9334 0333.

Ask how we can help with:

- Roadside vegetation value mapping
- Environmental management training
- Roadside vegetation management plans

Roadside Conservation Committee



Locked Bag 104, Bentley Delivery Centre, Bentley, WA, 6983.

Phone: (08) 9334 0423

Fax: (08) 9334 0199

Email: rcc@dec.wa.gov.au

Wheatbelt Revegetation Bank Program



Creating vegetation corridors and enabling environmental approvals for road safety improvements.

About the Program

The Wheatbelt Revegetation Bank is a Main Roads initiative offering a sustainable solution to the often conflicting needs of improving road safety and conserving roadside vegetation.

To improve road safety across the Wheatbelt road network, a large number of upgrades are planned over the coming years. Some roads will require widening that may involve the clearing of roadside vegetation.

Vegetation in the road reserves may contain remnants that are protected under environmental legislation and approvals for road upgrades often require Main Roads to provide 'environmental offsets' to compensate for the loss of this protected vegetation. Environmental offsets typically involve the purchase and protection of remnant vegetation on freehold land.

This is becoming increasingly challenging for Main Roads as the availability of land with good quality remnant vegetation is limited and declining, and because purchasing and protecting existing vegetation does not necessarily replace the vegetation that is removed for road upgrades.



Once established, these revegetated areas will form an offsets 'bank'.

The Wheatbelt Revegetation Bank offers a sustainable approach to providing environmental offsets and addressing the incremental loss of native vegetation.

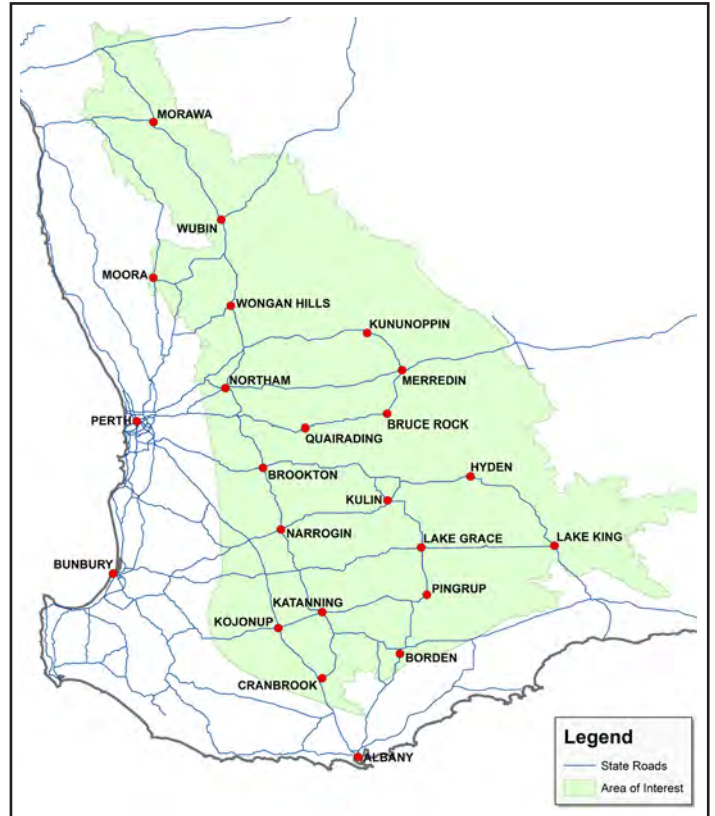
It involves the purchase and revegetation of cleared farmland abutting road reserves to create wider, vegetated road reserve corridors. The revegetation will be managed to ensure it achieves certain standards as required by the environmental regulatory agencies.

Once established, these revegetated areas will form an offsets 'bank' that will simplify and expedite environmental approvals for future road upgrade programs across the Wheatbelt.

Selling Land for the Program

Main Roads is keen to hear from landowners who may be interested in selling cleared land alongside existing road reserves (see map) for inclusion in the Wheatbelt Revegetation Bank.

We are seeking to acquire strips of land 50-100m wide and preferably more than 1km in length to add to the road reserve. Ideally the land will connect existing patches of remnant vegetation. It is intended that any land acquired would be dedicated as road reserve.



Interested landowners are encouraged to contact Rod Cousins at Main Roads on (08) 9323 4811 or via revegetationbank@mainroads.wa.gov.au

