



# **SHIRE OF KOJONUP E-NEWS**

Edition 134 – 15 June 2018

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

# **COUNCIL BRIEFS**

#### **Queen's Birthday Honours List - OAM**

Council would like to congratulate Robbie Miniter on making the Queen's Birthday honours list for his service to the Indigenous Community of Western Australia. Well-deserved Robbie!

#### **Volunteer Bushfire Brigades**

On behalf of Council and the Kojonup community we extend our sincere appreciation to our Chief Bushfire Control Officer – Tony Fisher, Zulu's, Fire Control Officers, Secretary – Denise Berryman and brigade members/volunteers for responding to and protecting property assets over the prolonged dry season.

#### Works and Services

The rains have finally arrived and hopefully Mother Nature will be kind to us over the coming months. As previously advised our winter grading program is now in full operation with 3 graders and 2 rollers progressively covering the shire over the next few months.

Stormwater drainage improvements are being plotted allowing remedial works to be undertaken. Parks and Reserves are busy preparing for the flush of growth including plantings and landscaping of the new 'Sensory' garden at Springhaven.

The Old Robinson Road Landfill is being rehabilitated as per post closure approval plans. Watch this space for updates and photos.

#### **Courtesy Speed Display Signs**

The Roadwise WALGA courtesy signs have been installed on the Main Street as part of a state road safety initiative for the next 30 days. Whilst the signs

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are not as large as Council envisaged motorists overall have noticed a smiling or sad face based on their speed.

Council is assessing options to make larger solar courtesy signs a permanent fixture despite the Main Street being under the control of Main Roads WA.

#### Staff

Mort Wignall – Manager Regulatory Services will officially retire on 7 August 2018 after 8 years loyal service with the Shire. We thank Mort for his valuable contribution to Kojonup and the many projects,

activities and roles he has undertaken such as Water Reuse and Recycling, Waste Management, Swimming Pool, Environmental Health, Occupational Safety & Health, Resource Sharing and Saleyards/Washdown Facility. Mort will be missed especially seeing him on his late afternoon walks. Happy retirement!

Pam Chambers – Senior Admin Officer will start a new position with the Shire of Plantagenet on 20 June and we wish her all the very best. Advertising for Pam's replacement has commenced.



Shire President **Ronnie Fleay**  Chief Executive Officer Rick Mitchell-Collins

## **SPRINGHAVEN LODGE**

Springhaven's Residents and staff celebrated the Royal wedding of Prince Harry and Megan Markle with a High Tea.



The days before the Royal wedding were rife with speculation between residents and staff, from what the dress would look like to the guest list, many memories of Princess Diana were also shared.







The facility was decorated with much love by staff and the High Tea was beautifully made by the Springhaven kitchen. During the High Tea, wedding music and some good old classics was played by the amazing pianist Yooa Kim, residents sang along creating a very special moment.

Yooa Kim plays the piano at Springhaven weekly which is very much appreciated by all residents. 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 Jacky on 9831 2800.

# POSITION VACANT - CASUAL COOK, KITCHEN HAND & CLEANER

If you have a love of cooking, enjoy cleaning and have a genuine interest in older people this might be the position for you.

Springhaven Lodge is currently recruiting for a person willing to cook, kitchen hand and clean.

This position is casual and you must be available to fill any of the above positions at short notice including weekends. You will be paid under the Aged Care Award 2010. A current police clearance is essential.

If you require further information please contact 98312800.

Applications including a covering letter and resume to be addressed to:

Manager of Aged Care Services, Springhaven Lodge, Barrack Place, Kojonup WA 6395 or email macs@kojonup.wa.gov.au.

Sue Northover Manager of Aged Care Services 9831 2800

### LIBRARY

'We have had lots of fun and activities at Play Café this term. We've had had a 'SUPER HERO' day, where we made 'Ninja Turtle' plates, wrist bands. At 'Prince & Princess 'day, we cut out and decorated crowns and swords.

One day we didn't put out the 'Play doh'......big mistake, it was truly missed, but we had so many other activities to do. We are learning about cutting and trying to hold our scissors correctly, we need to learn this to go to big kindy! We are very proficient in gluing and painting, but we do make a huge mess with GLITTER! (a little glitter sparkles, but we use so much we shine)



Macca and James



Georgie full of concentration





Making the wrist bands



DJ with his Ninja plate

Katrina (is our Super Hero Volunteer at Play Café) with some of our 'Super Hero's' with their certificates, dressed in the masks & wrist bands (which they made) because Super Heroes are everyday people who wonderfully kind things. Super Hero's help clean up, Super Hero's in the making with super smiles.

Coming up we will have 'Emergency Day' (13th June) & 'Dinosaur Day' (20th June)....then it's back to the APEX Park on 27th June for 'Play in the Park'



Please remember 'Play Café' & 'Play in the Park' are free Community Events for all to come along and enjoy!

WHAT'S ON WHEN? Play Café Wednesdays at KDHS Kindy room 9.30am – 11.30am 20 June

> PLAY in the PARK APEX Park 10.00am to 12.00pm 27 June

STORY TIME @ Library 10.30am – 11.30am 29 June

#### WHAT'S NEW IN YOUR LIBRARY?



Children's book - Free Diving -Lorrae Coffin: *Free Diving* is a poignant tribute to the Indigenous men and women who worked in the pearling industry as 'free divers' in the late nineteenth century in Western Australia. In a practice

known as 'blackbirding' (forced unpaid labour), European pearl lugger owners used Indigenous people to dive for pearl shell. With no protective suits, the



divers faced threats such as decompression sickness (known as the 'bends'), shark attack, or of being swept away by huge tides. At sea for weeks at a time, there was also the risk of the luggers being shipwrecked in cyclones that formed off the coast. The lyrical narrative is based on the celebrated song '*Free Diving*' by singer-songwriter Lorrae Coffin. It sensitively reflects the emotional journey of a young man who leaves family and country to work on a lugger with Japanese and Malay divers by his side. Bronwyn Houston's illustrations are a deep-sea celebration that illuminate both the glory of the ocean and the extreme dangers encountered by the free divers. *Free Diving* is a fictionalised story of a young man lost at sea.



Online Danger, How to Protect Yourself and Your Loved Ones from the evil of the internet – Dr Eric Cole: Whether you like it or not, the digital age is upon US and cyberspace is one of the most dangerous places on the planet, Very few people understand or accept the dangers that give the

adversary the upper hand. Online Danger is an engaging, approachable read that reveals the realities of cyberspace and exposes the dangers that lurk around every corner. It is important to recognize that there is no delete button in cyberspace. Security expert Dr Eric Cole changes readers' views of the world to align with reality by: Explaining cyber security in a way that non-technical people can understand, Providing practical advice for keeping individuals and their families safe online, De-mystifying cyberspace by teaching readers how to protect against true dangers, Taking away the hype and providing a step-by-step blueprint for being safe, If you have a computer, smartphone, email account, or surf the web, Online Danger is a must read. By providing the necessary steps for keeping individuals, their families, and their businesses safe. Dr. Cole empowers readers to join the winning team and turn the tides on the adversary.



Making Peace – Fiona McCallum: From Australia's master storyteller comes an uplifting story of new and old friendships, letting go of the past and looking to the future... Does one simple act of kindness have the power to completely turn someone's life

around? It's been a year since Hannah Ainsley lost her husband and parents – her whole family – in a car crash on Christmas morning. Despite her overwhelming loss, she's worked hard to pull the pieces of her life together with the help of a group of dear, loyal friends. But while Hannah is beginning to become excited about the future again, she's concerned that her best friend and talented artist Sam is facing a crisis of her own. It's now Hannah's turn to be Sam's rock – can she save Sam's dreams from unravelling?



Butterfly on a Pin, A memoir of love, despair and reinvention – Alannah Hill: Alannah Hill, one of Australia's most successful fashion designers, created an international fashion brand that defied trends with ornamental, sophisticated elegance, beads, bows and vintage

florals. But growing up in a milk bar in Tasmania, Alannah's childhood was one of hardship, fear and abuse. At an early age she ran away from home with eight suitcases of costumes and a fierce determination to succeed, haunted by her mother's refrain of 'You'll never amount to anything, you can't sew, nobody likes you and you're going to end up in a shallow grave, dear!'

At the height of her success, Alannah walked the razor's edge between two identities – the 'good' Alannah and the 'mongrel bastard' Alannah. Who was the real Alannah Hill? Reprieve came in the form of a baby boy and the realisation that becoming a mother not only changes your life, but completely refurbishes it, forever.

Yet 'having it all' turned out to be another illusion. In 2013 Alannah walked away from her eponymous brand, a departure that left her coming apart at the seams. She slowly came to understand the only way she could move forward was to go back. At the heart of it all was her mother, whose loveless marriage and disappointment in life had a powerful and long-lasting effect on her daughter. It was finally time to call a truce with the past.

This extraordinary book is the fierce and intelligent account of how a freckle-faced teenage runaway metamorphosed into a trailblazer and true original.

Lorreen Greeuw Senior Library Officer 9831 2412



### **EMAIL MY RATE NOTICE**

It's almost that time of year

# **RATE NOTICE**

The Shire is pleased to offer its ratepayers the opportunity to receive their rate notice via email. This convenient service saves paper and offers a quick and easy way for people to receive their rate notice.

To receive your rate notice via email, please contact <u>council@kojonup.wa.gov.au</u> with the following details.

Assessment Number: Name: Postal address: Email address you would like the rates sent to: Phone number:

### NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

# ROADSIDE BRIDAL CREEPER SPRAYING HAS COMMENCED

The State NRM Program and Royalties for Regions has allowed the roadside spraying of Bridal Creeper (Asparagus asparagoides) in the Kojonup Shire for the second year in a row. Six other Shires will be covered by the roadside spraying; Katanning, Dumbleyung, Wagin, Woodanilling, West Arthur and Kent, sharing over \$40,000 to control this weed.

Bridal Creeper is a Weed of National Signifigance (WoNS), one of 32 weeds agreed by Australian governments based on an assessment process that prioritised these weeds based on their invasiveness, potential for spread and environmental, social and economic impacts. Consideration was also given to their ability to be successfully managed. A list of 20 WoNS was endorsed in 1999 and a further 12 were added in 2012 (http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasiv e/weeds/weeds/lists/wons.html)



Caption: Bridal Creeper infestation along the Kojonup-Broomehill road.

Bridal creeper is one of southern Australia's worst weeds. It is very aggressive and highly invasive in bushland, capable of smothering native ground flora and small shrubs. It forms a thick tuberous root mass, which inhibits growth of other plants and prevents Berries are readily over-storey regeneration. consumed by birds and foxes, enabling rapid dispersal of seeds. Bridal creeper invades a variety of environments including coastal areas, wet and dry sclerophyll forests, heathland, woodland, mallee shrubland, riparian areas, citrus orchards and pine plantations. Bridal creeper tolerates a wide range of soil and climatic conditions and, unlike many other weeds, can readily establish in undisturbed areas. Growing conditions can vary from dense to part shade, alkaline to acidic soils of light and heavy textures, and even areas of frequent frost. The perennial root system ensures it can survive drought conditions.

#### **Control methods:**

#### Physical removal

Physical removal involves carefully excavating around and under the tuberous root mass and levering it out with hand tools. This control method is only effective if all of the tuberous root mass, including the rhizomes, are dug up and removed from sites.

Digging, sometimes referred to as grubbing, is only effective on small isolated infestations or after several years of herbicide treatment on larger sites. Be aware that the act of digging out the tubers can create considerable soil disturbance allowing bridal creeper and other dormant weed seeds to germinate. Once the plant has been grubbed it is best to replace the soil and leaf litter to prevent erosion. Plants should be grubbed during autumn and winter, while soils are still moist and before fruit forms.



Slashing or pulling off the foliage prior or during flowering will prevent fruit production and may slowly deplete the tubers of energy over time but it is unlikely to eradicate an infestation.

#### Disposal of weed material

If bridal creeper is controlled through grubbing it is imperative that all tubers and rhizomes are bagged immediately and taken off site. The extracted material must be placed in a black bag (garbage bag or something similar) and left out in a sunny spot to 'cook' the tubers. After 2-3 months, dispose of this material through the local government kerbside collection or take it to the rubbish tip for deep burial. Do not compost or mulch root material as rhizome fragments can reshoot.

#### Herbicide treatment

Application of herbicides has been an effective form of control. Both selective and non-selective herbicides can be used and spraying should be conducted during the winter to early spring flowering period when the plants are actively growing. Do not spray if plants are under any sort of stress, as herbicide will not be absorbed effectively. Application of herbicides can be very effective after a prescribed burn in late summer or early autumn but beware of off-target damage.

Bridal creeper infestations are often located in areas of native vegetation and therefore great care should be taken to avoid spraying herbicide onto surrounding foliage and soil. The use of a hand sprayer or wiping herbicide directly onto leaves will help to reduce off target damage to native plants. Mixing a dye in with the herbicide will minimise missed areas and prevent over spraying. Weather conditions should be calm, with low wind and no immediate rain expected.

From May to June bridal creeper can be sprayed with a 600g/kg Metsulfuron methyl product, such as Brushoff<sup>®</sup> or Ally<sup>®</sup>, at a rate of 5g/100L water plus a surfactant such as BS1000<sup>®</sup> at rates as indicated on the label. From July to early September use a 360g/L Glyphosate<sup>®</sup> product such as Zero<sup>®</sup> or Roundup<sup>®</sup> at the rate of 1L/100L water plus a penetrant such as Pulse<sup>®</sup> (Weed Control Notes, APCC).

It is important that the product label is read carefully before using any herbicide. Any deviation from the labels' instructions may require an off-label-use permit issued by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA). The APVMA can be contacted via their website at <u>http://www.apvma.gov.au/index.html</u> Some offlabel-permits for the control of bridal creeper have already been issued. These can be found by searching the APVMA site, using the words bridal creeper and Asparagus in the relevant pest/product line on the permit search page. Ensure spray equipment is correctly calibrated and maintained. Herbicide should be applied every year in order to prevent seed set and to exhaust the tubers.

Sourced from: Asparagus Weeds Best Practice Manual <u>http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity</u> /invasive/weeds/publications/guidelines/manuals/asp aragus-weeds-manual.html

Or your NRM/Landcare Officer can email or print a copy for you. Contact Jane Kowald <u>landcare@kojonup.wa.gov.au</u>

# WARM UP YOUR FEET WITH RESPONSIBLY SOURCED FIREWOOD

A reminder to the community about collecting wood this winter. Collecting wood from Reserves is deemed to be a form of Clearing. Clearing is defined by the EPA (Environmental Protection Act 1986) as:

- a. the killing or destruction of; or
- b. the removal of; or
- c. the severing or ringbarking of trunks or stems of; or
- d. the doing of any other substantial damage to, some or all of the native vegetation in an area, and includes the draining or flooding of land, the burning of vegetation, the grazing of stock, or any other act or activity, that causes —
- a. the killing or destruction of; or
- b. the severing of trunks or stems of; or
- c. any other substantial damage to, some or all of the native vegetation in an area.

Certain areas are open for the public to collect domestic firewood. For more information please visit <u>https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/management/fore</u> <u>sts/forest-produce/gathering-domestic-</u> firewood?showall=1

Firewood can only be sold by collectors with a permit. The damage done to the native flora by the passage of vehicles, vegetative litter and rubbish left behind after firewood collection is significant. Our local reserves host a plethora of rare flora and endangered species of fauna that are put under more pressure from this illegal activity.



If you are unsure of the rules, please visit: <u>https://www.der.wa.gov.au/images/documents/</u> your-environment/nativevegetation/Fact\_sheets/Native\_Vegetation\_Clearing\_ FAQs.pdf

#### APP TO HELP RECORD WEEDS



#### MyWeedWatcher

The general community and community groups can now use smartphone and tablet devices to identify, survey and report weeds and view results online.

MyWeedWatcher enables users to identify weeds, conduct surveys on weeds interest and report on the presence of declared weeds.

The identification guide allows users to quickly search for a weed according to plant characteristics such as flower colour, leaf shape, and plant type.

The survey/reporting feature enables users to map weeds, add images and record survey data such as weed density, weed counts, confidence of identification, and notes on control activities done.





#### NRM/LANDCARE OFFICE CLOSURE

The NRM/Landcare Office will be unattended from the 29 June to the 17 July due to School Holidays. For any urgent enquiries, please phone the Kojonup Shire office on 9831 2400, or email council@kojonup.wa.gov.au.

#### WEEDY WATTLE REMOVAL BUSY BEE

When – Wednesday 1 August 2018, from 8:30am Where – meet at the Old Rubbish Tip

What to Bring – water bottles, hats & sunscreen. Small chainsaws/handsaws and

gloves. Shire will provide staff, wands, paint brushes and Glyphosate.

**Who** – any community members, service clubs and volunteers.

Landowners who live near the Myrtle Benn Reserve would be asked to monitor their properties for Eastern States Wattles germinating or mature trees and remove these to prevent further spread.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

#### **BLOOMIN' FAMILY FUN DAY**



New Date: We can now confirm that Kojonup's Bloomin' Family Fun Day as part of Kojonup's Wildflower Festival will be held on the Public Holiday, **Monday, 24th September**. Although a new annual event on the Kojonup calendar, the last two years have proven it to be a fun day out for all the family.

Calling for Local Talent: Do you or someone you know have a special talent? Your child might sing like an angel or your Pop might be the best bush poet in Koji', or you're a budding musician or dancer and would like some experience performing to an audience? Why not share your talent during the family fun day? We would love to put together a program of local performers and entertainers for Kodja Place's staged area whilst giving you an opportunity gain exposure and experience. Please get in touch with our Visitor Services Officer, Cassandra at <u>vso@kojonup.wa.gov.au</u> to register your interest or if you require more information.

EOI Stall Holders: We are calling for expressions of interest for local stall holders to take part in the day. You could be raising money for a local organisation or charity, a skilled craftsperson selling your wares or a



small business that normally operates from home. Please email our Visitor Services Officer, Cassandra at vso@kojonup.wa.gov.au with your name, email, phone and type of stall or business. Please note spaces are limited so get in early.

#### SAVE THE DATE: Sunday 15th July

Kojonup's NAIDOC Celebration, 10am to 3pm at Kodja Place.







#### ASSISTANCE FOR KOJONUP BUSINESSES

Are you a small business owner or about to start up a new enterprise and need to access advice or guidance relating to your business? Did you know that you can get free, confidential advice from a business advisor through the Business Local service provided by the WA Government's Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC). This service has been successfully operating since July 2015 and provides small business owners with free, confidential advice and the service can be provided over the phone or in person.

The Small Business Centre Great Southern has recently been awarded the contract to continue to provide the Business Local service in the Great Southern region on behalf of the SBDC.

In addition from 2 July, SBDC will introduce some enhancements to the service which will enable small businesses to access professional advice using a range of delivery channels, including the opportunity to participate in workshops, seminars or forums that primarily focus on the development of enterprise skills.

For more information about the services provided, please contact The Small Business Centre, Great Southern on 9841 8809.

#### **NEW ASSOCIATION RULES**

Any not-for-profit or industry association covered by the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA) must review and update its rules by 1 July 2019 to ensure they comply with the requirements of the new Act. This does not apply to private organisations or notfor-profit public companies limited by guarantee under the Commonwealth Corporations Act 2001.

#### YOUR HEALTH

Have you had your flu vaccination yet? Flu is a serious illness and the health department is encouraging all West Australians to get immunised. During the 2017 influenza season, approximately 22,700 people attended an emergency department with flu-like illness in WA with just over 21% admitted to hospital.

If you haven't yet had your flu shot, don't delay as the recommended timeframe is late autumn, to ensure you are well protected throughout the flu season.

Are you one of the following groups eligible for government funded influenza vaccine?



- Pregnant women (any trimester)?
- Anyone aged 65years or older?
- Aboriginal aged 6 months or older?
- Children aged between 6 months to 4 years old?

• Anyone over 6 months that has a medical condition that places them at risk for complications of influenza? (Such as heart, lung or kidney disease, chronic respiratory conditions, or a weakened immune system)

If you are not sure, please seek advice from a medical practitioner.

#### FREE MAMMOGRAMS FOR KOJONUP WOMEN



If you are a woman aged 40 or over you can access the FREE screening mammography service in Kojonup. BreastScreen WA's mobile service will be located at Kojonup District Hospital, Spring Street from 18/07/2018 to 30/07/2018.

Breast cancer is the most common life threatening cancer for women and one in eight women in Australia will develop breast cancer in their lifetime.

Having a screening mammogram (breast x-ray) every two years significantly increases the chance of a woman surviving breast cancer and reduces the amount of treatment required. More than 75% of breast cancers occur in women over the age of 50. Research shows that screening is most effective for this age group.

BreastScreen WA's Medical Director, Dr Elizabeth Wylie, said screening mammography was the most effective method for early detection of breast cancer.

"Screening every two years is vitally important to increase the chance of a breast cancer being detected when it is too small to feel or be noticed. Finding a cancer at this early stage often means that the breast cancer is small and more treatable".

"A free screening mammogram is one of the best things that women can do to look after their health.

Breast screening saves lives and only takes 20 minutes," said Dr Wylie.

Screening mammograms may detect 70-90% of breast cancers.

Any woman with a persistent change in a breast should see her doctor immediately. The mobile service will then be moving to Cranbrook and Tambellup.

BreastScreen WA encourages women to make an informed decision about having a mammogram. For more information please visit the BreastScreen WA website www.breastscreen.health.wa.gov.au

Tomakeyourfreescreeningmammogramappointment-bookonlinewww.breastscreen.health.wa.gov.auor call 13 20 50.



# BUILDING BETTER REGIONS FUND: COMMUNITY GRANTS

Community Investment Stream grants are due to open soon through the Australian Government, Department of Industry, Innovation and Science. Minimum grants of \$5000 up to \$20, 000 do not require 1:1 matching of funding. Grants of up to \$100,000 will require matching dollar for dollar funding.

If you have a community project that:

• Will deliver Economic Benefit to the region during and beyond the project period

• Provides a Social Benefit to the region during and beyond the project period

• Provides Value for Money, and

• You / your organisation has the capacity and resources to run the project

Then go to: <u>http://business.gov.au/BBRF</u> or phone 13 28 46

Ensure you read all terms and conditions to be able to meet the Program Guidelines and application conditions.



# BUILDING BETTER REGIONS FUND: INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

If you have a project involving either construction of new infrastructure or renovation of existing infrastructure that your Not-for-Profit organisation wishes to conduct before 31 December 2020, then this is an option for you to consider. Although, if successful, work must begin on the project within 12 weeks of completing your grant agreements.

Grant funding must be matched dollar for dollar, with the minimum project grant of \$20, 000 up to \$10 million.

Please check the <u>http://business.gov.au/BBRF</u> website for opening and closing dates of each funding round, but the next round may open in the next few months, which gives sporting clubs time to begin planning and researching projects.

#### Zahra Shirazee

Manager, Community Development & Tourism 9831 0400

# **REGULATORY SERVICES**

#### **DID YOU KNOW....**



When it comes to obtaining a building permit, the value of the project does not determine if a permit is required.

There appears to be a common misconception that if the value of a building project is less than \$20,000, then a building permit

is not required. \$20,000 is merely a threshold that triggers other requirements, in addition to a building permit, such as the need for the works to be undertaken by a registered builder and payment of the compulsory BCITF levy. For more information, please contact the Shire's Development Services Coordinator on 9831 2424.

#### **Mort Wignall**

Manager Regulatory Services 9831 2407

#### WORKS AND SERVICES

The works and Services crews have been busy and have recently finished grading Cherry Tree Pool area and roadside pruning on Cherry Tree Pool Road. Crews are now commencing Crapella Road and will also starting grading on Old Broomehill Road area. Other programs recently commenced include:

- Roadside spraying program
- Cleaning of blocked culverts
- Preparation of 'Sensory' Garden prior to planting
- Annual Plantings in Town:
  - Matthews Depot garden/flower boxes
  - Black Cockatoo parking area
  - > Woolwagon
  - Main Street garden/flower boxes
  - Truck Bay opposite Old BP garage
  - Town entrances

Planted: assorted pansy's violas, petunias, foxgloves, stock alyssum.



Sensory Garden busy bee





#### **COURTESY SPEED DISPLAY SIGNS**



The Shire of Kojonup has installed courtesy speed display signs (on loan from WALGA's Roadwise) on Albany Highway. The speed display signs detect the of speeds approaching vehicles and will display feedback to the driver if they

need to change their behaviour. The courtesy speed display signs serve as an immediate reminder for drivers to slow down. It is the latest initiative being rolled out to help reduce speeds in the Shire of Kojonup.

#### **NEWSTEAD PARK – COMMUNITY FEEDBACK**

Following on from our request on E-News and Facebook for the community to provide ideas for upgrades, new equipment or shade facilities at Newstead Park. We have had requests so far for a BBQ, shade and more seating.

The Shire would like to apply for a grant for some of these items and would like to hear your thoughts. Please contact Marina Murray at the Shire of 0428566527 or email: sh@kojonup.wa.gov.au.

#### CALLING ALL KIDS THAT USE NEWSTEAD PARK -

The Shire would like to hear from families who use or would like to use Newstead Park of any ideas, upgrades or possible new equipment that they would like to see at the park in the future. Please contact Marina Murray

at the Shire on 98 312 900 or email: sh@kojonup.wa.gov.au

### LOCAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS



Whit only according torrise

Women 50 years or over, have a FREE breast screening mammogram every two years. Once is not enough.



For an appointment book online or phone 13 20 50

www.breastscreen.health.wa.gov.au



#### ADVERTISEMENT

# Rusted-on bias in unjust criticism of Council rates rises



COUNCILLOR LYNNE CRAIGIE PRESIDENT WALGA

Local Governments often bear the brunt of long-held misconceptions and never more so than around their annual rates increases.

Each year many including government, the media and ratepayers look closely at the final figure of a Councils' rates increase and often pass judgement on it using inappropriate yardsticks such as the Consumer Price Index.

A few weeks back, households awoke to a headline that Councils were being told to "rein in rate increases".

It would have been a fair demand to make but for the fact that Council rate increases were admirably low and far less than other government charges.

Accompanying the article was a table that listed the rate rises of 12 metropolitan Local Governments – the highest of which was 4% and the lowest under 1% - the average was slightly less than 2.5%.

In making the claim by the Opposition to rein in rates – the Minister was commendably more circumspect – the article ignorantly compared rate rises to inflation with CPI of 1.5%.

Furthermore, the article didn't mention a more relevant context – comparing Council rates increases to other charges by government that also directly affect households.

That is, the average 2.5% Council rate rise wasn't considered in light of the average 7% increase to electricity, 5.5% for water; 5.8% for car registration or 3.7% for motor licences. Ironically the largest of all State Government increases this year is the 10% rise for the Emergency Services Levy that is collected via Council rate notices but does not go to Local Government.

Indeed, the State Government's own statements put the increased costs to households from the recent budget at 4.8%, which is less than the 6% averaged over the past decade.

Those numbers put the average 2.5% rise in Council rates in a much fairer context, especially when you consider that increases to utility charges such as electricity will contribute to the Councils' costs.

But back to instead using inflation, or the CPI as a comparison. Whilst it may seem on the surface to be a fair comparison, it isn't. It is instead an argument that is easily understood but fatally flawed.

The factors that contribute to cost increases to Local Government, and as a consequence rates, are far more complex than comparing a cost-ofliving basket of goods and services.

It is the same as saying that the price of bananas should only go up by CPI and not as a consequence of a myriad of factors including wages, cost of production and even climate.

It is hoped that ratepayers will recognise that an average Council rate rise of 2.5% is a positive achievement in an environment of much greater increases to other household charges.

Despite facing ongoing biases and misconceptions, Councils persevere in their efforts to meet community aspirations specific to their own context and for that, they are to be commended.



Kojonup

# COMMUNITY EVENTS (REGULAR & UPCOMING)

Got a question for the Shire President? Want to liaise with Council? Community members are reminded that **the Shire President is available for appointments every Wednesday morning from 10.00am** until noon. Please contact Lorraine Wyatt on (08) 98312408 to make an appointment.

Date / Day	Time	Event	Location	Cost
Wednesdays	3:15pm – 4:15pm	Homework Help	Library	FREE
Fortnightly on	10:30am – 11:30am	Storytime	Library	FREE
Friday				
29 June				
4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday of	10:00am – 12:00pm	Play in the Park	Apex Park	FREE
each month	· · · · ·		·	
27 June				
Wednesday	From 8.30am	Weedy Wattle Busy Bee	Old Rubbish Tip	Free
1 August				
Tuesdays	Commencing	Ordinary Council Meeting	Council Chambers	FREE
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of	at: 3.00pm	19 June 2018		
each month				
(Except July – this		Ordinary Council Meeting		
meeting will be		(Budget Adoption)		
held on the 4 <sup>th</sup>		24 July 2018		
Tuesday of the				
month)				
22 September		Bloom Festival		
to		Theme: "Bloom" or "Spring"		
21 October				

