

Good Morning Rick

Further to the ongoing negotiation between the Shire of Kojonup and the local Kojonup Polo and Polocrosse Club regarding an outstanding payment, I thought I should contact you to say that I'm afraid I rather misinterpreted your email below, and as I (or anyone else) never received a written quote, or any actual reference to a monetary amount from yourself or the Shire workers during our liaison, the bill which was sent to KPPC came as something of a surprise, indeed to me more than anyone.

Had we received a quote outlining any such payment required of us, we would not actually have proceeded to commit to such a large amount of money during the late stage of our preparations, as had we known we were committing to spend up to \$5k on a works programme expedited to commence early the next morning - a gesture we greatly appreciated by the way, given the urgent desperation of our situation - committee approval for such expenditure could never have been sought in such a time frame anyway.

My original letter, I would have thought, quite clearly expressed that I was "humbly" and desperately seeking an in kind donation from the Shire towards the cause of KPPC, a large community group of volunteers who rarely ask the Shire for anything, yet we not only host various sporting tournaments, but also the Wandecle picnic race meeting each February - a renowned, award winning community event organised and operated solely by our club members for locals to enjoy, whilst also serving as a fundraising enterprise to enable us to manage our grounds and interests entirely self sufficiently without the typical need by sporting clubs and community groups for Shire assistance.

We very much enjoy sharing the facilities we have created, regularly extending a warm welcome to a diverse number of visitors to Kojonup throughout the year for the various sporting and social events, both public and private, which we offer. Our multi purpose sporting venue and homely clubhouse provide a functional base for not only polo and polocrosse players from across Australia, but also the Kojonup Pony Club and Moberup Riding School fraternities, together with a great many supporters. Wandecle has also been the privileged venue of choice for a significant portfolio of community parties, meetings, weddings, funeral wakes and Christening gatherings too numerous to mention.

That a group of local farming families professionally operate the race day, and manage our grounds throughout the year entirely by ourselves in order to stage that day and some of Kojonup's other biggest sporting events, is testament to the community spirit of our club, and an achievement of which we as members are all extremely proud, perhaps none more so than me as one of our club Captains.

For the record, and very much due to the excellent preparation of our playing fields, both our polocrosse and polo tournaments were tremendously successful, attracting leading international sports people from across Western Australia, together with their entourage. The Polo In The Country event was particularly wonderful for our community I thought, with over 80 visiting people in residence with our town's accommodation providers, visitors who also frequented many of our local business premises during their three day stay, the highlight of which was our Country Polo Launch function at Glenlossie Distillery, to which guests were transported by the Kojonup Bus Service via private charter.

As Polo Captain, I took the opportunity at my presentation speech to publicly acknowledge and warmly thank the Shire of Kojonup for their kind contribution to our field preparation for both tournaments, which was greatly appreciated and received by our large crowd of supporters, which included an impressive gathering of esteemed local identities and Southern Dirt Young Farmers.

As you would be aware, in contrast to other local sporting groups, we receive almost nothing from the Shire, despite our large membership base, and significant contribution to community events. It is becoming increasingly difficult for us to continue staging such wonderful events as our race day, a fact due in no small part to our ongoing problems with local criminals committing vandalism and burglary offences at our grounds, most recently before Christmas when a substantial quantity of alcohol was stolen, which of course was not able to be covered by insurance, and so was a cost we have worn ourselves, yet again, despite every reasonable precaution to deter and prevent such incidents.

Polo and polocrosse players, adult riders, pony club children, racing industry folk, and collectively thousands of visiting spectators enjoy frequenting our grounds to attend the events we host for the greater good of our community, without any regular financial or maintenance assistance from the Shire, and as such, an act of goodwill to waive our unforeseen groundskeeping bill would be appreciated by all.

Almost without exception, our club members are active volunteers within the local bushfire brigade, whilst we also have two very prominent ambulance volunteers in our club, all of whom enjoy polo and polocrosse as their sports of choice. We are good people who serve our local community very well....we are your people Rick, and I ask you to please consider taking this opportunity to offer a token gesture of goodwill back to our club by waiving our bill.

Many Thanks in Anticipation, and Kind Regards,

Zoe Ednie-Brown
Kojonup Polo Captain
Kojonup Polo & Polocrosse Club Committee

Kind Regards,

Rick Mitchell-Collins
Chief Executive Officer
SHIRE OF KOJONUP

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