

# SHIRE OF KOJONUP E-NEWS

Edition 176 – 6 April 2020

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## COUNCIL BRIEFS

During these times of rapid changes that affect our daily lives, the Shire of Kojonup would like to acknowledge those people in our community performing their daily tasks in an amazing way. Every employee in the retail sector who serves us under extreme pressures, thank you. The businesses that provide goods and services that we cannot live without, thank you. The volunteers who give up their time to help others, thank you. The employees in the health and aged care sector, thank you.

Living in a small, rural community has never been better. In times such as these, it is more important than ever to take five deep breaths, slow down and be thankful for the special people around us.

## EASTER BREAK

Old habits are hard to break... This Easter is going to be very different for many of us than in previous years. Please heed the Government advice and stay home. Your health and safety and that of your family is more important than a weekend camping or fishing. Staying home will also assist the tireless efforts of WA Police in managing the movement of people during this COVID-19 pandemic. Try doing something different at home. A sleep out in the back yard or lounge room may be just as much fun!

## KOJONUP LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

It is reassuring to know, that the lead hazard management agencies within the Community operate within established structures and protocols to address the uncertain times we currently face.

These agencies also make up the Shire of Kojonup Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC)

Established for over 20 years, the LEMC is comprised of representatives from:

- ✓ *Shire of Kojonup*
- ✓ *Bush Fire Brigades*
- ✓ *WA Police*
- ✓ *Kojonup Bush Fire Association*
- ✓ *St John Ambulance*
- ✓ *WA Country Health Services*
- ✓ *WA Volunteer Fire & Rescue*
- ✓ *Kojonup District High School*
- ✓ *Department of Communities*

The Shire of Kojonup LEMC falls within a structural hierarchy which includes a District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC) and State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC). These three groups are enshrined in legislation, and play an important role during emergencies and the subsequent community recovery period, including for a pandemic such as COVID-19.

The Shire of Kojonup LEMC is currently meeting weekly to assist in the management of the current pandemic, share information and ensure all community issues are considered.

### ADMINISTRATION OFFICE CLOSURE

Residents are advised that the front doors of the Administration Office is now closed to customers.

ESSENTIAL business only, can be conducted via appointment, for example:

- Transport licensing that cannot be done on-line – e.g. photo for driver's license and registration of new vehicles;
- Purchase of water standpipe fobs; and
- Appointments made in advance with individual Officer's

To arrange an appointment, please contact Stacey on 9831 2400 or by emailing [cso@kojonup.wa.gov.au](mailto:cso@kojonup.wa.gov.au). Appointments will be limited to one person at a time. Upon arriving at the Shire Administration Centre, customers will need to ring 9831 2400 to be let inside the door.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN ELECTRONIC COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council meetings will now be held via electronic communication in light of the current COVID-19 Pandemic.

Social Distancing measures require that members of the public are NOT encouraged to attend.

Questions may be submitted using the special email address for **Council Meeting Public Question Time** being [cmpqt@kojonup.wa.gov.au](mailto:cmpqt@kojonup.wa.gov.au) .

Minutes and agenda for this meeting will be available on the Shire's website [www.kojonup.wa.gov.au](http://www.kojonup.wa.gov.au)

### VULNERABLE COMMUNITY MEMBERS

A call for the registration of vulnerable community members has been issued. A list is currently being compiled by Community Development Officer in conjunction with "look after your neighbour" advertising message. Please contact Elaine via [cdo@kojonup.wa.gov.au](mailto:cdo@kojonup.wa.gov.au) to register your interest



Shire President  
*John Benn*

A/Chief Executive Officer  
*Anthony Middleton*

## SHIRE PRESIDENT AVAILABLE FOR APPOINTMENTS

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

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

## CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

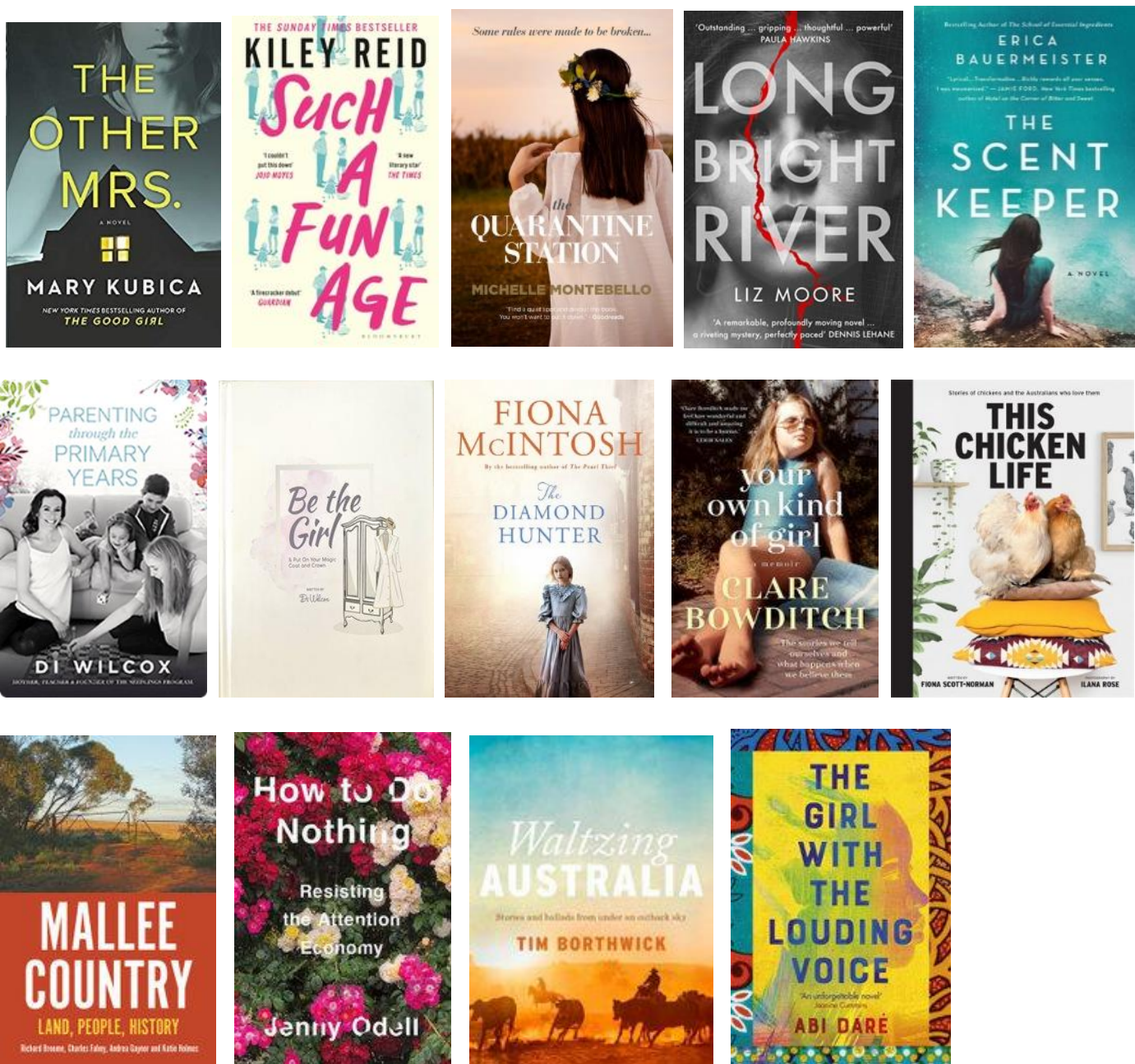
### LIBRARY NEWS

#### New Book Exchange has arrived!

With the library doors being closed because of C-19, I'm working to get the exchange ready for you to use. How we are doing this is, please click on this link and will take you to our online catalogue, <https://kojonup.spydus.com>. From here you can either reserve books or email/message me what you would like. Then we will place all books in a bag for collection. Book returns at the moment, there is a tub at the library door or please use the green mail box.

***For us that shy away from technology, learning is in the speed of adapting.*** So please let us know if you need support and we will certainly do our best to make sure you are supported.

Yes the doors are closed but we are still working 😊



Please remember eResources are always available at your fingertips. [BorrowBox/Overdrive/Libby](#) are all eBooks & eAudios. [Kanopy](#) is eStreaming & [Rbdigital](#) is your gateway to magazines.


Download the apps, use your library barcode and 6395 as pin/password.

If you don't know your barcode number because your card is in a safe space 😊 give me a call on 98312412 or email [library@kojonup.wa.gov.au](mailto:library@kojonup.wa.gov.au)



## Ideas for being at home with children:

For our Early Years Families, I have backpacks, full of books and some worksheets for you to do with the children. Let me know and together we can arrange collection.

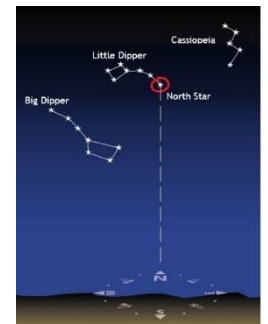
I am also adding ideas and links on the [Play Cafe](#)  page for you too.



**Remember, if you or your child have any cold or flu like symptoms – please do not leave the house.** We all have to do what we can. I know many of you are in overwhelm right now but I also know that we all need support to get through these months ahead.

## Astronomy and learning at home

The great thing about stargazing is that, you can do it from your own backyard. We're lucky in country WA. Our night sky is world-class. There are billions of people around the world who can't see the Milky Way anymore. Some don't even see one star at night! Stargazing upon our beautiful night sky and marvelling at the star patterns and planets is a lovely way to calm the mind, unwind and take a break from the uncertainty of this new reality we find ourselves in.



Two great apps I use are Skyview and Night View, these are great and children will love using them and learning without realizing they are doing so!

## Stargazing Tip: Why the Easter Date Changes Each Year

Believe it or not, the reason the Easter date changes each year has a lot to do with astronomy! It's nothing to do with a decision made by churches or public holiday makers.

Quite simply, Easter Sunday is deemed to be the first Sunday after the full Moon, following the March Equinox. Just so you know, the March Equinox is always on or around 22nd March each year. What is the March Equinox? Find out at <https://stargazersclubwa.com.au/what-is-an-equinox/>.

**Easter date 2020:** It's a bit of a calculation and here it is...

In 2020, the March Equinox was on 20 March. The full Moon after this date is 8 April and therefore Easter Sunday is the following Sunday which is 12 April 2020!

Now you'll be able to impress friends and relatives with your knowledge of why the Easter date changes each year!



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWS



Do you know someone that is vulnerable or in isolation that needs help or even just a phone call? If so, can you help them?

At these difficult times, it is very important that we look after our neighbours, after all it is what small rural communities are famous for! At times, this is not possible due to distance or other factors, as such, if you are aware of someone in our community that doesn't have a neighbour close by helping out, please let the Shire know.

If you know of someone who is likely to need assistance with things such as shopping at the supermarket or pharmacy, or other things, we would like to know who these community members are. The Shire is creating a register of vulnerable and/or isolated people that may require assistance with much needed supplies or services.

### What you can do to help during uncertain times:

- ✓ Keep in touch with your family, friends and neighbours
- ✓ >Offer assistance if you can to those in need
- ✓ Keep yourself physically strong and mentally positive
- ✓ Open your windows and enjoy the fresh air
- ✓ Be kind to everyone

Please advise Elaine Venn, Community Development Officer on 9831 2411 or via email – [cdo@kojonup.wa.gov.au](mailto:cdo@kojonup.wa.gov.au) of the name and contact details for inclusion on our register.

## SPRINGHAVEN NEWS

### Visiting Restrictions to Apply

We need to ensure a safe working environment is provided for our staff and ensure that we prevent our residents from being exposed to Coronavirus which can only come from outside of our facility. We are confident that all family and friends of our residents share this responsibility, and that the desire for the protection of their loved ones, to the maximum extent possible.

We therefore regret, that it has been deemed critical, that we restrict the entry of visitors to Springhaven Lodge to minimise the risk to our residents and staff.

### Effective midnight Sunday 5 April 2020

All non-essential visitors will be restricted from entering Springhaven Lodge. This includes all external contractors and family members.

Should there be an exceptional reason (e.g. palliative care) for a non-essential person to enter the facility, they will be required to comply with the following conditions of entry:

- Have not returned from any overseas travel in the past 14 days;
- Have not knowingly been in contact with a person or persons who have been confirmed positive for COVID-19 or influenza;
- Have not been caring for someone with a respiratory illness;
- Are 18 years or older;
- Have the flu vaccine (after 1 May 2020);
- Agree to adhere to the following:
  - Strict hand hygiene practices.
  - Temperature check before entering the building. (Below 37.5°C).
  - Remain in the room of the resident you are visiting.
  - Follow any instructions from staff during the visit.

*If your family member becomes palliative or very unwell during this lockdown period, please contact the Registered Nurse to discuss the precautions that will need to be taken in order for you to visit. Exemptions to the “no visitors” rule can be made only in exceptional circumstances.*

### Reduced lifestyle services

In line with Department of Health recommendations, the decision has been taken to cancel all group activities and to restrict movement of residents in common areas of our home. All external visits have been cancelled and we advise that outings with family members will also be restricted to essential medical appointments only. Should there be any further changes in the coming days or weeks, we will be in communication with our residents and primary contacts as necessary.

This decision will be reviewed in 14 days and continually thereafter. Families will be notified when/if there are changes to our visitation restrictions.

With everything that’s going on in the world due to the Covid-19 Virus, we are focused in keeping our residents feeling safe and happy.

We were lucky to have Lynn Boddington come and play the piano for us last week. The residents love listening to music and we are always so grateful to those who take the time to play for us.

We were also joined by Bear Warbuton this week who again read from 'Always Unreliable' a book by Clive James. The residents enjoyed it so much last time that he came back to read a bit more. Thank you Bear for your visits – we all enjoy them very much.

As of Tuesday, 7 April we will no longer be allowing visitors into our facility. This being said, we do not want our residents feeling disconnected from their families or community. We are currently in the process of setting up video communication via Skype (or similar) with our residents and their families and it is working a treat! A few of our residents have been testing the new lines of communication out and its brought nothing but smiles to our residents (and their families!). If you are a close friend of one of our residents and would like to Skype and stay connected with them please contact Jody or Alex at Springhaven and we will set it up. Feeling connected is so important, for everyone, during these times.

Springhaven has recently obtained a projector which we plan to use to help continue our Church Services with Reverend Lindy. We would like to use the projector as a fun way to keep our residents connected to their amazing community too.

If you have a special talent, play a musical instrument, can do stand up comedy, have kids that would like to put on a show or perhaps have a pet that can do a fun trick, take a video of it! Send it to Alex at [sha@kojonup.wa.gov.au](mailto:sha@kojonup.wa.gov.au) and we'll show it to our residents. What a fun way to keep us all connected. We are all in this together.

The Shire of Kojonup and the Springhaven team, thank you for your understanding in these tough times, do not hesitate to call us for updates on your loved one, we shall continue to implement our video calling.

From all of us at Springhaven, keep safe.

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## COMMUNITY/PUBLIC NOTICES

# Special Meeting of Council

Notice is hereby given that a Special Meeting of the Council will be held via an eMeeting on **Tuesday, 7 April 2020 commencing at 3:00pm** to consider the following item:

- TO REVIEW COUNCIL DECISION 116/18 IN REGARDS TO THE CLOSURE OF WATER STANDPIPES
- CEO APPOINTMENT AND COVID-19

Submissions to public questions time can be made by emailing [cmpgt@kojonup.wa.gov.au](mailto:cmpgt@kojonup.wa.gov.au)

Anthony Middleton  
*A/Chief Executive Officer*

## STAY INFORMED

Download the official Commonwealth Government "Coronavirus Australia" app in:

[Apple App Store](#)

[Google Play](#)

[WhatsApp Channel](#)

[iOS](#)

[Android](#)

## NEW: 13-COVID (132 68 43) enquiries line for WA

An enquiries line to keep the community informed about COVID-19 coronavirus has been launched.

By dialling **13COVID (132 68 43)**, Western Australians will have access to the latest information regarding the impact of the virus in WA.

As well as hearing important COVID-19 prevention tips, callers are given a range of options directing them to the relevant sources of information for their needs.



## RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD EXTENDED

The restricted burning period has been extended to the end of April across the state.

This means that there can be no fires lit within the shire boundaries without a permit from your fire control officer.

There will be **no** permits approved for fires to be lit within the townsite before **14 April**.

After this time, please ring 98311580 to speak to the chief fire control officer for a permit.

