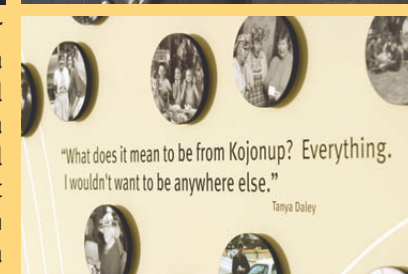


“one story, many voices”



For many thousands of years the Noongar Aboriginal people have inhabited the area now known as Kojonup. As traditional custodians of the region, they enjoyed a nomadic lifestyle, enhanced by the local freshwater spring and bountiful game that once occupied the area, hunting with traditional weapons including the kodja, a stone axe.



In 1837, British settlers arrived in nearby Albany and surveyors were soon followed by a garrison of soldiers, travelling north through the West Australian bush in search of water, good farm land and a site for a military outpost. The local Noongar people welcomed them, sharing knowledge of the local flora and fauna, and showing them springs that had traditionally watered the area.



Early wooden structures were replaced by a more permanent stone Military barracks, built alongside the Kojonup Spring in 1845, and farms began to be established. Over time government policies and farming practises restricting the Noongar way of life were enforced. For the Noongar people a new century brought with it a need to work on the farms to survive and for many others home became a Reserve House in town. Life for the Noongar had changed forever.

The Kodja Place Visitor Centre



Today a thriving, contemporary agricultural community occupies the area.

In the heart of the town, the Kodja Place Visitor & Interpretive Centre stands as an example of what can be achieved by cultures working in harmony, rather than at cross-purposes, telling the story of the lives of the peoples of the Kojonup region.

The effort of hundreds of local volunteers is evident in the design and construction of The Kodja Place. Combining artifacts, individual quotes, interactive displays, photos, films, entertaining hands-on activities and a spectacular rose maze; this is the story-telling place of the peoples of the Kojonup area.

It portrays in a refreshing, fascinating, entertaining and contemporary manner the Kojonup locality, how it is made up, and the cultural, economic and geographic influences that brought it to where it is today.



It demonstrates the significance of Noongar and Wadjela cultures in the district, and exists as a graphic illustration of the evolution of a multitude of similar communities across Australia. The impact of other cultures on the local Aboriginal way of life is acknowledged while at the same time a forceful demonstration of the reconciliation process is clearly presented.

It provides a focal point for local cross-cultural harmony, and its existence, its activities and its success provide a source of community pride, a community meeting place and a pivotal expression of the cultural makeup of Kojonup.

It shows visitors this expression in an entertaining, colourful and fascinating manner, and invites you to share in the spirit of the people who have made it possible - the people of Kojonup.

