



Narrogin Narrative

February 2021



OUT 'n' ABOUT

Library Dress-ups



Yasmin, Angel and Christine enjoying school holiday activities at the Library.

Small Scale is a Big Job



The "N Scale" model rail project is well on the way. It is hoped the mini Narrogin rail precinct can be proudly displayed in the refurbished Railway Station.

Railway Dam Anyone?



Kynan and Steve have installed the new funky bike station donated by the Wheatbelt Cycling Collective at the Railway Dam



~ PRESIDENT'S POST ~

In February last year, I wrote of the despair we were all feeling for those who lost their homes in the horrific fires in NSW and Victoria and now this year, in Western Australia, 86 homes been destroyed in the Wooroloo area. Already there has been a huge outpouring of assistance both in fighting the fires and relief with provision of essential items for those in need. One of Narrogin's fire trucks was used in the emergency and three of our Narrogin volunteer fire fighters attended the blazes. It has seen the 50th activation of the Lord Mayor's Distress Fund in its 60 years of existence. The LMDRF is the recognised state emergency fund and provides relief for personal hardship and distress arising from natural disasters occurring within Western Australia. You can 'donate now' to the Appeal online to appealswa.org.au.

Despite fires, floods and COVID we hope that 2021 brings a year of optimism for the future and that our resilience makes us stronger.

The Shire is striving forward with its plans to develop the Rail Precinct including the railway station and the goods shed. The Shire of Narrogin has made a considerable financial commitment, and the community has demonstrated their enthusiastic support revealing how passionate and important their memories of the railways are to them. At the February 24 meeting, the Council will be considering the community's feedback on the Draft Adaptive Reuse Strategy and the opportunities the restored precinct offers, and make a plan for its future.

We have also asked the community about the naming of the many officially un-named parks in Narrogin. This item will also be considered at the next meeting of Council which, once adopted, will see new signage in all of the Shire Parks. Public comment closes 15 February.

Narrogin - Love the Life

Leigh Ballard ~ Shire President.

~ COUNCIL DECISIONS ~

Council decisions made at the meeting held on 15 December 2020 include:

Permit for Home Occupation

Council approved advertising for public comment, an application for a home occupation for a hair salon to operate from 21 Kipling Street.

Temporary Batching Plant

Council decided to approve the annual renewal for the temporary mobile concrete batching plant operating from 5 Earl Street. This is its final year of the five-year approval to operate from its current location.

Budget Request - Public Art

The Council agreed, at the request of the Townscape Committee, to allocate up to \$100,000 of Federal grant funding on public art on the three gateway roundabouts on Great Southern Highway and Pioneer Drive.

Smith Street Ablutions

Council agreed to retain the Smith Street toilet block and is now costing

the refurbishment and reconfiguration of it, to provide for unisex accessibility and baby change facilities.

Court Resurfacing Project

The Narrogin & Districts Netball Association received support of the Council to fund one-third of the cost to flexi-pave the 2 outside courts, to be marked for netball and basketball, should their grant be successful.

Naming of Narrogin's Parks

Council has approved for advertising and comment various names that have been proposed for 10 parks, reserves and sportsgrounds in Narrogin and Highbury. Public comment is now requested and closes 15 February. See the [website](#) for more information.

Court Hearing

Council authorised the CEO to appoint a legal representative to represent the Shire at a hearing for non-payment of multiple wandering stock infringements notices to a landowner.

The full minutes can be found on the Shire's website with public copies available at the Library and Shire Administration. Council Meetings commence at 7pm and are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Community members are most welcome to attend.

~ SHIRE NOTICES ~

Roadworks & Projects

The outdoor grassed area at the Narrogin Regional Leisure Centre has been transformed into a multi-use grassed community area that can host community functions and events including movie nights, corporate functions and other recreational activities. Come along to the official opening at 2pm on Saturday, 20 February for a fun filled family day.

Whinbin Rock Road and Wagin - Wickepin Road works are nearing completion with the return of seal contractors in early February. All the budgeted re-seal works within the Narrogin Townsite are 98% complete.

The popular Railway Dam Picnic Area has had recent improvements completed by the Shire's Works Crew, including two lovely shade shelters covering two free gas BBQs, and accessible seating picnic benches, replacing the former dangerous and poor wood BBQs.

Other additions include our funky bike stand and rubbish bin, new creative seats and interpretive signs around the walk trail, and the site being approved as another overnight RV stop for travellers visiting Narrogin and district.

Narrogin's RJ Smith Engineering was contracted for the shelters, Narrogin Earth Moving & Concrete for the concrete slabs and Paul Elliott of Re-Kindled Metal for the bespoke seating. Thank yous go to Main Roads WA for donating the former bridge stringers, Wheatbelt Cycling Collective for the bike stand and Doug Sawkins for the inspiration and ongoing support. Why not have a look this weekend!

ERates - Go Paperless!

Ratepayers can opt to receive their rates invoice by email. Consider going



From Days Gone By - A polo match, Narrogin v Mingenew - taken in 1927.

paperless and save time, money and the environment. Only those who register via the online link will receive online notices. See erateswa.com/narrogin/.

Funding Opportunities

Did you know the Shire has grant funding available for eligible property owners, to paint existing building facades located in the Narrogin CBD? Applications can be submitted throughout the year and proposed colours should be in accordance with the Shire's Colour Palette Guide and Signage Guide.

The Shire's Landcare Project Fund provides funding assistance for up to 50% of the total spending on native plants (up to a maximum of \$5,000) to rural property owners to purchase native plants for land rehabilitation on their property. Apply before 28 Feb..

In the wake of the COVID-19 crisis, the Shire of Narrogin has increased the limits on individual Community Chest Fund applications up to a maximum \$5,000 cash or in-kind support. Eligible community groups who deliver activities and programs that demonstrate benefit to the Narrogin community are invited to apply before 28 February.

Kidsport - Eligible families can now apply for two \$150 Kidsport Vouchers this year, taking the total financial assistance available up to \$300 per child. Kidsport has helped children access club sports since 2011 with \$31 million worth of vouchers going directly to WA clubs.

The new additional voucher will be accessible from 1 July, 2021, enabling parents and guardians to support kids to access club sport and swimming lessons all year round.

Applications are open all year round. Details on how to apply at <http://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/kidsport>.

Details about funds and grants can be found on the Shire's website or by phoning the Administration Office.

~ HOMECARE HIGHLIGHTS ~

What a busy few months it has been at Narrogin Regional Homecare. Our annual Christmas Party was a great success and in January the social groups re-commenced. Homecare recently welcomed some new staff to the team. Mattie is a very experienced Registered Nurse and Phyllis oversees all the scheduling of services. We also welcomed Ivy and Sophie who support clients in the community.

Our ever growing team is currently seeking to recruit a casual Home Maintenance Officer. The position is currently advertised on the [Shire Website](#) and closes 4pm on Friday, 19 February. A Home Maintenance Officer provides gardening and maintenance to our clients in their homes.

We recently reintroduced multi-day trips away, with a 2 night/3 day trip planned for Albany in May. If you are interesting in joining, give Phyllis or Melissa a ring on 9890 0700.

~ IMPORTANT DATES ~

20 February 2021
Community Park Opening
2pm at Narrogin Regional Leisure Centre.

28 February 2021
Close of applications for both the Community Chest Fund and Landcare Project Fund.

~ Library News ~

The R.W. (Bob) Farr Memorial Library held another successful school holiday program during January 2021. Children were entertained by the giant games purchased by the Shire of Narrogin, with a free craft table stocked with materials to encourage creativity. During the COVID situation of 2020 all of the soft toys and dressing up clothes were washed and put into storage. Ready for a fresh start in 2021, all these items were returned to the children's area and were met with a lot of enthusiasm. Depending on the next few weeks these items may go back into a wash/storage situation, so it was lovely to see the children enjoying them.

