



# Narrogin Narrative

March 2021



**From Days Gone By** – The East Narrogin Primary School choir singing Pix Borgan's winning song in the 'Participate' competition at the 'Evening of Local talent'. We think it was July 1982.

## ~ PRESIDENT'S POST ~

It was honour to open the new park last month in front of the Narrogin Regional Leisure Centre and officially name it, Alby Park in honour of Narrogin local Alby Timleris, former swimming pool supervisor and coach at the pool where the park now stands. Alby Park is sure to provide a fantastic venue for community events into the future and a great job was done by the Narrogin Agricultural Society in bringing the celebration together providing fun family outdoor activities.

Next week you will notice a lot of young faces in the streets of Narrogin. It is again, that time of year, where Narrogin hosts a number of medical students from the Universities of Curtin and Notre Dame. They are here on their annual Wheatbelt Medical Student Immersion Program. The Council is supportive of such programmes as it brings benefits to students, and host families alike, in the hope that exposure to life in the Wheat-belt will attract them to the country and allay any misconceptions they may have about living in the regions.

This month, you may also spot the Elected Members on their annual bus tour of the Shire. The Elected Members and key employees of the Shire, spend a day inspecting the Shire infrastructure, including roads, so that they can prioritise what projects should be addressed in the budgeting cycle as well as assess the success of projects already completed in this year's plan.

Although community budget submissions can be made at any time of the year, it is timely to remind everyone that the annual close-off for budget

requests is nearing and completed forms are required to be submitted to the Shire by 31 March.

For anyone (or group) who wish to submit ideas to Council, for the forthcoming budget, look for the Budget Request Form on the website [www.narrogin.wa.gov.au/documents/forms](http://www.narrogin.wa.gov.au/documents/forms). The forms submitted over the year are collated at the end of March and put forward to Council, if meeting the criteria, for consideration.

*Narrogin - Love the Life.*  
Leigh Ballard ~ Shire President

## ~ COUNCIL DECISIONS ~

The Council decisions made at the meeting held on 24 February include:

### Railway Station & Goods Shed

The adaptive re-use strategy for the Narrogin Railway Station and Goods Shed "The Heart of the Town" was endorsed. Formal discussions will commence with the Board and Manager of the Dryandra Country Visitors Centre regarding opportunities to partner with the Shire to take a lead role in activating the Narrogin Railway Station and the Shire will commence a process with the community to contribute to the Railway Station, memorabilia or historical artefacts to assist interpret and celebrate the district's rich rail heritage.

### Scheme Amendment

After a period of advertising, the proposed Standard Scheme Amendment No 37 to the Former Town of Narrogin's Town Planning Scheme No. 2 at Lots 20 & 21 Graham Road was adopted.

## ~ LIBRARY NEWS ~

The RW (Bob) Farr Memorial Library is functioning as the Early Voting Centre. The Library has papers for every electorate in the State and has processed over 500 votes at the beginning of March. Electors are very pleased to be able to participate in the elections at their own pace.

Voting will continue at the Library until Friday 12 March, before the actual polling date of 13 March. Voting will occur then at: East Narrogin Primary School, 37-41 Homer Street, Narrogin, OR Highbury Hall, Burreley Street, Highbury. AND in Narrogin at the Senior Citizens Centre, 1-3 Fathom Street.

The Library is still involved in the Showerhead Swap program until May 2021. If you are able to bring your account number and old showerhead (up to 2) you can receive new showerheads at the Library. If you are currently renting, please check with your rental agent.

### Aircraft Hanger

Council approved an application for Planning Consent for the construction of an aircraft hanger at the Shire of Narrogin's Airport.

### Smith Street Ablutions

The Council resolved to demolish the existing public toilet on Smith Street and build a new ablution containing 1 unisex facility with baby change table and 2 standard self-contained cubicles.

### New Shire Grader

Council approved the purchase of a low hour (demo) John Deere 620GP grader from local supplier, AFGRI Equipment, and traded in the old grader bought in 2012.

### Objections to Policies -

Ratepayers affected by Council Policies regarding Predominant use of Rural Land and Contiguous Land Use will be written to advising of changes in their rating and their appeal rights.

### Naming of Narrogin's Parks

After community consultation was undertaken, Council resolved to officially request the Geographic Names Committee to name the parks in Narrogin as follows:

The park located on Sydney Hall Way be known as Sydney Hall Park; the park located on Watt and Jersey Street be known as Apex Park; the park located on Ensign Street be known as McKenzie Park; the park located on Harper, Hive, Argus and Halo Streets be known as James Park; the park located on Yale Place be known as Bushalla Park; the park located on Garfield, Northwood and Hillman Streets be known as Menzies Park; the oval located in the centre of the Narrogin Pace and Race Trotting and Race Track be known as Hardie Park; the BMX track located on Earl Street behind Narrogin Race and Pace be known as BMX Park; the oval located at Highbury be known as the Highbury Sports Ground; and the reserve located on the Great Southern Highway Highbury, be known as the Highbury Siding Precinct.

Community consultation has commenced for the remaining 5 parks in Narrogin. If you wish to provide comment, click on the [Have your Say](#) link on the Shire website.

### Child Safety Officers Proposal

Council endorsed the National principles outlined for Child Safe Organisations as a recommendation of the recent Royal Commission but did not support the notion that the Local Government appoint a Child Safety Officer, when it is already in the mandate of other State Government agencies.

### New Code of Conduct

The Council adopted a new Code of conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and candidates for a local government election, pursuant to new legislation requiring it.

### Adoption of Model Standards

Council adopted minimum model standards for both the recruitment, selection, performance review and early termination of local government CEOs and a policy on the employment and appointment of an employee who will act in a CEO position, pursuant to new legislation requiring it.

*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 7:00 pm and are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Community members are most welcome to attend and a COVID Safety plan is in place for the venue. Entrance to the Council Chambers is via the door near the William Kennedy Way carpark.*

## ~ SHIRE NOTICES ~

### Roadworks & Projects

Narrogin is expecting a visit from the National Tidy Town judges as a finalist for the overall National Tidy Town and will be competing against the finalists from Australia's other States and Territories. The judges are expected this month and it is intended that the National winners will be announced in June 2021.

The Wagin Wickepin Road – Regional Road Group project, valued at \$787k, is now complete. Work undertaken include defect correction over a 1km length and another 3km of new bitumen seal over gravel which takes this road's improvements to 4kms this year.

Additionally, the Whinbin Rock Road, stabilisation of pavement failures and reseal of pavement surface works to the value of \$93k, is also now complete.

Moss Street is currently being prepared for sealing. The gravel road surface is being formed and a two coat bitumen seal will be applied. This work is expected to be completed in mid March.

The Railway Dam upgrade project is now complete, except for the sealing of the car park, which is due in early March. This project has been well received by the community and visitors.

## ~ HOMECARE HIGHLIGHTS ~

Some of the Homecare clients had a lovely day out recently in Wandering, and this week, they are heading off to Harvey for lunch and a look around.

At Jessie House, the Tuesday group is growing all the time, with new clients joining us for lunch and activities between 9am and 3pm.

Staff in the Homecare office have been working hard in the background on a new client database which will be implemented on 1 April. It has some fantastic new features including a client/family portal allowing family members to log-on and see what services your loved one has, even if you live far away.

*From Wendy and the Homecare Team.*

## ~ IMPORTANT DATES ~1

15 March - End of Prohibited Burning period -Permits now required for burning.

24 March - Monthly Ordinary Council Meeting

31 March - Close of Community Budget submissions for consideration in 2021/22 Budget

## OUT 'n' ABOUT

### Rural Clinical School



The University of Western Australia has Rural Clinical Schools in 15 towns in WA including Narrogin. More than 100 students a year spend their final university year in one of the regional locations. A special sundowner was held to welcome the University Students allocated to Narrogin and was attended by Elected Members and community group leaders.

### Railway Station



The Railway Station development is moving along nicely. Narrogin Earthmoving & Concrete are busy installing drainage and earthworks ready for kerbing, primer sealing and hotmix in the next two weeks (weather dependant).

### New Free RV Site



The Railway Dam upgrade project is now complete except for the sealing of the car park which is due in early March. This project has been well received by the community and visitors who can be seen here parking overnight for free in their recreational vehicles, enjoying the tranquil yet convenient surrounds.