



Narrogin Narrative

June 2021



From Days Gone By – The Narrogin Ladder & Coupling “Eight” at the Fire Brigade Carnival in Perth 1925.

~ PRESIDENT’S POST ~

Every year that ends with an odd number means that it is a year for Local Government elections. In October, residents enrolled to vote in the Narrogin electorate will be receiving ballot papers in their mail box to vote for candidates for vacant seats. It’s a good time to check your enrolment and that your address details are up to date. Simply do this online with the WA Electoral Commission elections.wa.gov.au.

In September, the Shire will be holding information sessions for anyone who is interested in finding out more about what is required to fulfil the role of a Councillor, or indeed the role of the publicly elected Shire President. Keep an eye out on noticeboards, Facebook, Shire website and the local paper for advertising when the exact date is known.

Additionally, the Australian Local Government Womens Association WA is running a program called ‘Standing Up’ to encourage more women to nominate in Local Government elections. They are specifically targeting regions with low female representation on Council.

Narrogin will be hosting their information session for interested women in our Region on 29 June to be held at 10am in the Council Chambers at the Narrogin Shire Administration. I strongly urge women with an interest in local government and having a say in the future direction of their community to attend. It is a great opportunity to understand more about the role of a Councillor. Please come along and listen to experienced speakers who can also field all your questions.

~ LIBRARY NEWS ~

The RW (Bob) Farr Memorial Library enjoyed a great, interactive session for National Simultaneous Storytime again held on Wednesday 19 May. All three primary schools participated along with lots of other children from Town and we all had a lovely time. This year’s book was ‘Give Me Some Space’ by Phil Bunting. The children came in amazing space alien costumes and lots of them entered the colouring-in competition. At 11am we shared the scheduled story reading by Dr. Shannon Walker, an astronaut from the International Space Station.

As part of Reconciliation Week, the Library ran a weaving workshop at the Narrogin Regional Recreation Centre. Lots of netball enthusiasts wove head and wrist bands in red, black and yellow colours.

Have you got a replacement showerhead? Even though the showerhead program is officially over, you are still able to exchange your showerheads at the Library until the supplies run out.

On a colourful note, are you aware that building owners in the CBD are entitled to apply for a contribution from the Shire to the costs associated with painting the existing building facades of their property? Applications for a matching contribution up to a maximum of \$2,500 can be submitted throughout the year. The guide on how to apply is all available on the Shire website or by contacting the Shire.

Narrogin - Love the Life.
Leigh Ballard ~ Shire President

~ COUNCIL DECISIONS ~

The Council decisions made at the meeting held on 26 May include:

Oversize Outbuilding

Council considered and approved an application for Planning Consent for an oversized outbuilding (shed) at 2 Martin Street.

10-Year Road Program

In order to plan for the forthcoming Shire Budget, a revised 10 year road program was reviewed and adopted.

Townscape Budget

Council resolved to consider in the 2021/22 Budget, an amount of \$185,000 towards potential public art projects including design, landscaping and improvements to three round-a-bouts on Pioneer Drive and Narrogin and Highbury townsites entry statements.

Differential Rating

Differential rating is required when a local government wishes to have 2 different rates in the same category, eg UV and/or GRV. After the merger in 2016, Council set a 10-year program to

achieve ‘rate parity’, in the same category. This is the sixth year to calculate a separate rating to achieve parity. Council endorsed the advertising of the proposed rates as required by the Local Government Act. Details can be found on the Shire website.

Contiguous Rating

Contiguous rating allows property owners to amalgamate a number of titles onto one rates notice, as long as they meet the eligibility criteria. This is so for many farms, and some township properties. After a review, some larger townships properties (being on two titles) were found to be incorrectly rated as contiguous having failed to meet the eligibility criteria. Affected property owners have been notified and some have appealed the policy, as in the future they will receive 2 rates notices, one for each title. Council agreed to allow applicants further time to raise appeals.

Electoral Review

Council requested the CEO to make a submission on their behalf to the Expert Committee on Electoral Reform of the Legislative Council, expressing that it does not support any reform that reduces representation of electors in Regional Western Australia.

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 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

Completion of a few remaining capital projects for the financial year is continuing with an exceptional effort put in by the Works Crew and associated team members, and contractors, to bring a larger-than-average list of projects to be completed on time, on budget and to a very high standard.

Rural gravel road winter grading has commenced and will continue while sufficient moisture is present in the gravel road pavement.

The National Tidy Town Judges visited Narrogin last month to inspect the township for the National Tidy Towns awards scheduled for early June in Victoria. The judges were most impressed with the presentation of our town and it is hoped that Narrogin fairs well in the National competition against other State and Territory winners. Unfortunately, the Shire has been recently advised that there will be a delay with the National awards which were being held in Victoria this month, however, due to a resurgence of COVID, the awards will now be held at a later date, yet to be announced.

E-Rates—Go Paperless!

Ratepayers can opt to receive their rates invoice by email. Consider going paperless and save time, money and the environment. Only those who register via the online link will receive online notices. See erates.wa.com/narrogin.

The Court House Museum

The museum has been busy behind the scenes preparing the collection for uploading to the WA Museum website. The WA Museum has also asked us to select 3 items for inclusion in their tourism portal featuring Australia’s Golden Outback. They will be visiting us between the 14 and 25 June with a professional writer and photographer.

Two items from part of our Narrogin Doll Factory collection have been selected to be part of the ‘Toy Stories’ exhibition to be held in Midland later this year.

Our contribution to the ‘Pioneer Challenge’ run by Rotary and due to end on 30 June was well received and we have noticed an increase in regional visitors to our museum with many compliments recorded in our Visitor book.

Currently on display we have brought out from storage a selection of vehicle lighting artefacts from days gone by. Why not pop in and check out your local museum.

!! Win a Camera !!

Photography enthusiasts might like to consider entering the “Tell us your happy place” competition being run by the WA Local Government Association. The winner receives a Canon EOS DSLR Camera and a chance to star in a TV Commercial. See the Shire Website News or Facebook page for details.

~ HOMECARE HIGHLIGHTS ~

Another busy month at Homecare as we head into winter. We have a new cook whose love of good home-cooked food shows in every meal she makes. We have also had some new staff join us in Jessie House as our numbers continue to grow.

We still have some spaces left in our Tuesday Group and you are welcome to come down for a day to see if you want to come along.

This month we set up a photo booth to take photos of clients as their profile picture on our system, but decided to have a bit of fun with it, and have a range of props and dress up items. So if you are a client of Narrogin Regional Homecare, pop in to have your photo taken and you’re welcome to stay for a cuppa.

From Wendy and the Homecare Team.

~ IMPORTANT DATES ~

Wednesday, 23 June, 7pm
Monthly Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday, 29 June, 10am
Information Session for prospective female councillors in the Shire Council Chambers.

NAIDOC Week, 4–11 July
Tuesday, 6 July, 10am
Opening Ceremony at Gnarrogin Park coordinated by the Shire of Narrogin.

Tuesday, 6 July, 11.30am
Community Lunch, at Avon Community Services Youth Centre coordinated by Southern Aboriginal Corporation.

Wednesday, 7 July, 10.30am
Family Friendly Sausage Sizzle at Lions Park coordinated by Amity Health.

OUT ‘n’ ABOUT

Weaving Workshop



Shantayae and Shanarla were among many young people who had an enjoyable time being creative at the weaving workshop held during Reconciliation Week. The girls made themselves headbands and wrist bands for netball.

Homecare Antics



Calling all Homecare Clients! Please come into Jessie House and have your photo taken for the new client database. As you can see we are having quite a bit of fun with it!

Clontarf Career Pathways



Ranger Guy and Ranger Noel from the Shire teamed with Henry Papertalk - Academy Director Clontarf here in Narrogin and spent time with the boys exploring employment pathways into Ranging. The boys collected 5-6 buckets of rubbish (mostly glass) from around the areas of the claypit at Foxes Lair and surrounding roads.