



Narrogin Narrative

October 2020



Shire of
Narrogin

OUT 'n' ABOUT

Jet Boats Event



Photo by West Coast Jet Sprint Club.

Jet boat competitors and enthusiasts will flock to Narrogin's Archibald Park on 17-18 October.

Early Bird Winner



Congratulations to the Saunders family who were drawn as the winners of this year's first prize of \$1,000 worth of Narrogin Chamber of Commerce Vouchers to spend locally.

More Improvements for Travelling Visitors



New bays and turf at the Narrogin Caravan Park have been installed providing an attractive stop for travellers.

Town Entry Plantings



Have you seen the new landscaping to the prominent entrance to the CBD approved by our Townscape Advisory Committee and constructed and designed by our wonderful Parks & Gardens Team? Pictured here is Mark and Tim from the Works Crew.

~ PRESIDENT'S POST ~

Isn't it exciting to have another addition to our tourism product with the Jet Boats event, which will be held at the historic Archibald Park on the weekend of 17-18 October. Archibald Park has not seen an event since the 1990s. I believe accommodation in and around Narrogin is getting scarce.

Hopefully residents have noticed the improvements around town of recent months, including the additional tree planting at the main street entrance and works at Railway Dam to turn it into a more attractive picnic and BBQ setting for locals and tourists alike.

In coming weeks, residents will see improvements to the former beach volleyball court, which will soon be turned into an attractive lawn area for the public to use. Shade planting is also being installed in the Leisure Centre car park near the Race Track without loss of any car bays.

The Caravan Park has its new cabins which are exceeding our expectations with bookings. There are new lawn areas for campers and new and also improved parking bays for caravans.

It's up to all of us, residents and businesses alike, to promote Narrogin and districts around Dryandra in order to maximise the tourism opportunity for retail and restaurants whilst people cannot travel overseas or interstate.

The Shire is currently seeking comment from the public and businesses about applying for a permanent change to current retail trading hours in the Shire of Narrogin, which will allow any retail shop, employing more than 25 people, to trade with extended hours. See the Public Notices section today and get your submissions in with your thoughts by 6 November.

Recently, I had the pleasure of presenting to Gerald Saunders (on behalf of the Saunders family) the first prize of the Early Bird rates draw. The Shire also awarded 16 other ratepayers with prizes. All winners were eligible because their rates were paid in full by 10 September. The prizes were supplied by the Shire, and were Narrogin Chamber of Commerce Vouchers, which are redeemable for goods and services from businesses who are members of the Narrogin Chamber of Commerce. With over 160 Chamber members in the region, there are plenty of options for redemption.

Now that we are starting to think about Christmas – yes the end of the year is nearly upon us – the Narrogin Chamber of Commerce vouchers are a great idea for your own gifts or business awards. The recipient gets a great choice of goods or services, conveniently from in and around Narrogin, and the money goes straight back into local businesses - of whom we are very proud and who keep our town thriving.

Narrogin - Love the Life

Leigh Ballard ~ Shire President.

~ COUNCIL DECISIONS ~

The annual Early Bird Rates Draw was carried out at the commencement of

the meeting. Congratulations to the following winners who receive Narrogin Chamber of Commerce vouchers to spend in local participating businesses. \$1,000 A Saunders; \$500 D Muller; and \$100 to J Brown, D Lavan, L Hill, A Humphreys, M Hetzel, R Hardie, T Hall, R Lange, A Holmes, M Coles, S Conlan, M Shamam, J Chapman, S Lenk, and J Martens.

The Council decisions made at the meeting held on 22 September 2020 include:

Access Way Closure

Council agreed to formalise the closure of the Pedestrian Access Way between Clough Place and Lock Street, subject to advertising and adjoining landowners' support.

Fire Truck Relocation

Council decided against relocating one of the bushfire trucks to Highbury into a purpose-built shed, requiring construction, based on feedback from bushfire control officers explaining that response time will not be improved and there are insufficient trained operators in Highbury.

Landcare Project Funding

After consideration of Round 1 applications, 2 projects will receive Landcare Project Funding. Both applicants, Mr A Borthwick and Mr K Quartermaine, will be purchasing native shrubs for land care purposes. A balance of \$18,420 remains for Round 2 applications which will be advertised again, in February next year.

Smith Street Ablutions

Council decided to defer their decision on the future of the ablutions facility near Coles' carpark. Further research will be carried out by the Administration so that a more informed decision can be reached in the coming months.

Rating Policy - Contiguous Land

Council approved a policy about Contiguous Rating. When land is contiguously rated, the ratepayer receives one rates notice. Some lots in Narrogin will not be contiguously rated, ie they will receive a separate rates notice for each lot when certain conditions are met, which are outlined in the Policy.

Request for Contiguous Rating

Council did not approve the request for Contiguous Rating at lots 922 & 923 May Street Narrogin, owing to the nature of the property and in line with Council Policy.

Community Chest Grants

Round 1 of Community Chest grant applications were considered. An increased amount of \$100,000 was budgeted, during this COVID year, to assist eligible groups with recovery projects and programs.

Council supported 7 recommendations made by the Community Chest Grants Reference Group. A balance of \$43,329 remains for Round 2 applications which will be advertised again, in February next year.

Congratulations to Round 1 applicants: the Menshed received \$3,849 for a new fridge and vehicle hoist; Narrogin Cottage Homes, \$5k for governance training for volunteer board members; the Croquet Club, \$2,498 towards



From Days Gone By - Taken in 1919, everybody is dressed in their finest, furs, hats, suits and ties at the opening of the Old Butter Factory.

clubroom upgrades; Highbury District Community Council, \$4,213 for upgrading the Highbury Hall toilets; RevHeads, \$2,500 for marquees; Gymnastics Club, \$5k for safety flooring, Avon Community Services, \$2,500 for a Youth Skills program, Rotary Club \$5k to appoint a contractor to paint house numbers on kerbsides.

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 Tuesday of each month. Community members are most welcome to attend (social distancing will be adhered to).

~ SHIRE NOTICES ~

Roadworks & Projects

Road works are beginning on the Wagin Wickepin Road where defects will be corrected and a further 3km of gravel road will be sealed.

Winter grading of the rural gravel road network is 95% complete. Completion of grading will take place when further rain is received.

The Highbury Tennis Club have had their tennis courts refurbished. Special thanks to Lauren Blight and the Highbury Tennis Club volunteers for coordinating the upgrade with the Shire and to the Club for contributing financially to the project.

Street tree planting will be carried out on Clayton and Williams Roads within the town site in the coming weeks. This is an initiative of the Shire's Townscape Committee in greening our beautiful town with the replacement of missing street trees.

The improvements to Railway Dam are underway with new seating, barbecues, shelters, overnight RV parking and walk trail signage all planned for this much valued community destination. It is hoped that this project will be completed in time for Christmas.

A big thank you also to Main Roads Narrogin for donating large logs that will be used for seating.

~ HOMECARE HIGHLIGHTS ~

Spring is finally here and its lovely to see the sunshine. At Narrogin Regional Homecare we have been celebrating all things spring and enjoying the lovely weather. We have been busy with people staying in our new respite rooms and bookings are filling up fast.

We are currently advertising for a new client services officer to join our growing team and also looking for new support staff to support our clients in the community. With the warmer weather we have started our excursions again and, last month, clients went for a day trip to Araluen. In October they are off to Rockingham for a day trip.

~ IMPORTANT DATES ~

22 October

Official Opening of Narrogin Walk Trails - Visitor Centre.

27 October

Next Ordinary Council Meeting.

6 November

Close of Public submissions about extended trading hours in Narrogin.

10 November

NAIDOC Week Opening Ceremony.

~ Library News ~

On Thursday 8 October, there will be a combined Book Sale and FREE Children's Activities Day at the Library from 10am - 4pm.

Come along and enjoy searching through all the discarded books for that treasure you have been waiting for. Free tea and coffee will be available for the parents to relax while the children investigate the activities. Children do need to be supervised while in attendance during the day. Police story time starts at 10.30am and Fire story time starts at 1.30pm providing, of course, there are no emergencies.

Depending on the weather there will be water play, sensory play, art and craft activities available for the children.

