



Narrogin Narrative

December 2020



~ PRESIDENT'S POST ~

This is the last post for this year and as I read back to where this year has taken us, it has been one full of challenges, as well as opportunities - certainly a year to remember and one that will be hard to forget.

From time to time, and jointly with the Narrogin Chamber of Commerce, we attempt to visit the new businesses in Narrogin and welcome them to the business community. Narrogin is indeed in a good position for new businesses to commence as, perhaps owing to COVID, or perhaps it is our own Narrogin culture, as investors feel confident in the local community in supporting them and their families as they take the steps of opening doors to provide Narrogin and districts with a wide array of goods and services.

Just recently we have seen a spate of new business start-ups in town and these include two new cafes, Divine's Coffee Cups and Est. 1978, Rayment Welding, The Holistic Medispa, The Wheatbelt Occupational Therapist, Potions Gallery, Narrogin Natural Therapies, True Aspect Homes, Dawood Barbers, MW Migration Solutions and there could even be more that we are unaware of. The Salvation Army Thrift Shop has also recently relocated to the CBD. The main street is looking busy and activated and Narrogin is indeed thriving and progressing as a community.

Over the year, your Council has been able to progress some great projects that were included in the recent budget and also with the assistance of grant funding sourced by Shire Officers, have been able to start some exciting long term initiatives.

Topping the list of course is the Re-activation Plan for the old Railway Station. The community has been very active in providing feedback to consultants on how the old Railway Station can be re-purposed for the future and, at the last Council meeting,

a draft plan was adopted which is now available for further public comment.

You will have noticed a lot of action down at the front of the Narrogin Regional Leisure Centre, as the former volleyball court area is transformed into a new exciting community space.

Over the calendar year, we've transported successfully the old palms from the hospital, improved the corner of the entrance to the main Street off Clayton Road, installed yellow uprights in the name of National Road Safety into the trees at Mackie Park, built new public facilities in Memorial Park including toilets, BBQ and picnic area. The three new accessibility units at the Caravan Park are enjoying well above forecast occupancy.

Despite the pandemic we have been fortunate in WA to be able to celebrate events such as NAIDOC Week and the wonderful work our volunteers do at a special Sundowner. We opened the Heritage Walk Trail and the memorial tree to George Brockway at Yillimining Rock Reserve.

The Narrogin Dollars program, whereby every eligible resident received a \$50 voucher to spend locally did wonders for our business community and now that we've had time to analyse it, the results show that Council's investment was worthy of the exercise and has been replicated by other Shires and indeed other States. Statistics recorded by Chamber businesses indicate that \$116,540 worth of vouchers were spent with local businesses, yet the true value of money spent was somewhere in the realm of \$203,000, meaning the economy was stimulated successfully. A big thank you to everyone who took in their vouchers and redeemed them with our local businesses giving Council the outcome they anticipated.

Finally, I must congratulate the Team at the Shire Administration on their submission to the Keep Australia Beautiful Council. It was indeed a very proud moment to be present at the

Award ceremony when Narrogin was announced the State winner of the Keep Australia Beautiful Council's Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities 2020. A well deserved win for Narrogin.

Narrogin - Love the life.
Leigh Ballard ~ Shire President

~ COUNCIL DECISIONS ~

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

Strategies for Railway Station: Council received the Conservation Strategy for both the Railway Station and Goods Shed and approved the draft Adaptive Reuse Strategy "The Heart of the Town" to be made available for public comment.

Gate Permit - Porters Road A gate permit was issued to Mr and Mrs Porter to install two gates across Porters Road, a public road.

Narrogin Retail Shopping Hours Council considered public comment about extended shopping hours and agreed to request permission of the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety in the Shire of Narrogin for shops to permanently be able to trade additional hours if they so wish, on Sundays and Public Holidays between the hours of 11am and 5pm; and weekdays until 9pm (currently 6pm bar Thursdays, which is already 9pm). Approval from the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety is still pending.

Narrogin Tennis Club Council supported the request of the Narrogin Tennis Club to provide a cash contribution equal to one-third of the total cost of their proposal to resurface six courts with new synthetic surface, should they successfully receive grant monies for the project.

Narrogin Gymnastics Club The lease for the Narrogin Gymnastics Club at the Railway Institute Hall was approved to be extended for a further five-year term.

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 Annual road bitumen re-seals will be commencing mid to late December as part of the Shire's 10 Year Road Asset Management Program. Residents on streets identified, will receive a letter of advice that works are commencing and a request that vehicles be kept off the street during this time, to let machinery carry out the works. Residents consideration during this time would be greatly appreciated.

Wagin - Wickepin Road has undergone some defect correction over a one km length and another three km of new bitumen seal over gravel which takes this roads improvements to four kms

this year. The projects total value is \$787,500. Dongolocking Road is receiving the last one km of gravel to be sealed valued at \$101,846.

Park Street footpath outside the Dryandra Country Visitors Centre, has had the old concrete slabs removed and replaced with new pavers in keeping with the CBD theme. This has greatly improved the aesthetics of this area for the community and visitors.

A section of Argus Street is having new concrete footpath installed, which will be finished prior to Christmas.

The conversion of the Beach Volley Ball Courts at the Narrogin Regional Leisure Centre to a grassed multi-purpose community space has commenced and is expected to be complete prior to Christmas.

~ HOMECARE HIGHLIGHTS ~

As we move into the Christmas season, it is nice to take a moment to reflect on the year so far. Well what a year it has been with lockdowns, renovations and starting up overnight and short stay Flexible Respite. It gives us great pleasure to be able to provide a place in the community, where people can come and have a few days respite, either to give the Carer a break, post hospital stay or for many other reasons.

We are now booked up until January and getting more enquiries every day. This is the only Community Respite available outside of the Albany, Northam and the Metro Area. Tours of the facilities in Jessie House are available Monday to Friday. Simply give us a ring on 9890 0700 to arrange for us to show you around.

From Wendy and the Team at Homecare.

Diversi-tea Members of the community gathered in the Shire of Narrogin's Library Sensory Garden for Diversi-tea - a morning tea celebrating the International Day of People with Disability.

Guests enjoyed the sunshine and enjoyed some musical entertainment from the talented Cherie Dawson, who also shared her experience of living with mental illness and how we can improve inclusivity and acceptance in our communities. Attendees were also introduced to participants in AccessAbility's Community Connection program. The program is about encouraging members to stay connected and engaged in the community.

The International Day of People with Disability is a United Nations sanctioned day that is celebrated internationally each year on December 3 and is about promoting public awareness, understanding and acceptance of people with disability.

~ IMPORTANT DATES ~

26 January 2021
Australia Day Celebrations
Narrogin Town Hall for breakfast & afterwards for family fun at the Narrogin Regional Leisure Centre.

OUT 'n' ABOUT

Diversi-TEA



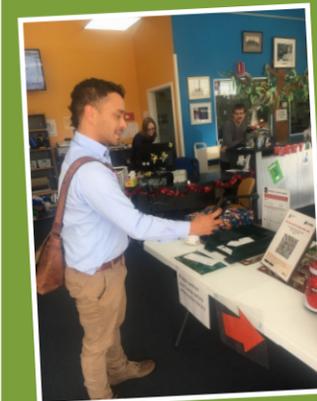
Guests enjoyed the sunshine and some musical entertainment at the Library Sensory Garden for International Day of People with Disability.

Tidy Towns Title



Narrogin is the State winner of the Keep Australia Beautiful Council's Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities 2020 Awards. Narrogin should be very proud.

Contact Registers



The Library, Leisure Centre and Courthouse Museum will require you to complete the Contact Register upon entry commencing 5 December. Have you got the SafeWA App?

Funding Opportunities



Did you know that on the Shire Website, we have listed many of the ways that your organisation may be able to source grant monies for economic and community development - check them out for your business, club or organisation.

~ Invitation for Public Comment ~ Adaptive Reuse Strategy for the Narrogin Railway Station & Goods Shed

The Shire of Narrogin is currently inviting submissions on the Draft Adaptive Reuse Strategy for the Narrogin Railway Station & Goods Shed. The Adaptive Reuse Strategy presents to the Shire a range of probable, appropriate, respectful re-uses for the railway station and goods shed.

Public comment in writing is invited by 5.00 pm Monday 1 February 2021 to the CEO, via enquiries@narrogin.wa.gov.au. The Draft Narrogin Adaptive Reuse Strategy - Narrogin Railways and Goods Shed can be found on the [Shire Website](#) or at the Library or Shire Administration Office.



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