



Narrogin Narrative

June 2020



From Days Gone By – Narrogin Creek in flood. Do you recognise the street?

~ PRESIDENT'S POST ~

Life seems to be returning to normal as the Government is easing restrictions to get Australia back working and setting a pathway for economic recovery.

It is indeed a time where we all learn new things and create new values for what is important. Above all things, our own health and the health of others in our various communities are of paramount importance. Our relationships and value we place on families, our workforce, our businesses, our time, and our health have all been re-scoped in light of the Corona Virus Pandemic.

Council has taken measures to assist our business community by way of distributing the \$Narrogin Dollars to electors to purchase goods or services with Narrogin Chamber Members or Businesses in the Shire that can become Members (the Council is offering to pay business membership for 12 months to ensure an equal playing field). With almost one third of the electors already collecting their dollars - it is great to see the vouchers going back into the economy already, especially with those smaller local businesses, running coffee shops, hairdressers and beauticians - the ones who have been most impacted with the required government closures.

I urge you to continue to look local and buy local, and support our local economy so that it is there for you and your families in the future.

Other ways Council has assisted during this pandemic is by providing its community group tenants, ARTS Narrogin, the Regional Early Education Develop-

ment Group, the Upper Great Southern Hockey Association and the Narrogin Gymnastics Club, with a waiver of rents for a three month period to assist while they are less financially viable owing to the Pandemic.

Over the coming days Council will be considering the suggestions list made by those who contributed to the Recovery@Narrogin during its budget deliberations for the forthcoming financial year.

Narrogin has so much to offer, and right now, with the announcements of housing and development grants by the State Government, the timing could not be better for anyone considering buying land and developing it for their dream home or for investment purposes. I believe Narrogin is *country living at its best*, being only two hours from Perth. Our, thus far, COVID19-free environment has ample opportunities for growth, with its existing infrastructure and its first class health facilities.

As restrictions ease, it is also a very good time to consider your own physical and mental health. We have been told to 'sit on the couch' for quite a while now and, although for some it is lovely and cosy, for others it has been a long, lonely wait. We do need to keep physically fit and socially stimulated, and get ourselves and our children back to sport and recreation. The Recreation Centre is back in full swing, the pool is open, classes have recommenced and the gymnasium is now operational. A COVID Safety Plan is in full operation.

An open air picnic might be a nice idea while the weather is still good. The Shire has installed picnic seating and barbeque facilities at Yilliminning

Rock at the site of the George Brockway Tree. Just a 15 minute drive from town, the Yilliminning Reserve is on the Harrismith Road. It's a great spot and you can walk to the top of the rock to get a panoramic view of surrounding farmlands as well as a little bit of exercise.

Narrogin - Love the life.
Leigh Ballard ~ Shire President

~ COUNCIL DECISIONS ~

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

Public Art

Council approved a draft Public Art Contribution Policy and Guidelines to be advertised for comment by the community. The proposed policy will support the Shire's implementation of the Public Art Strategy & Masterplan and details how the Shire may fund public art in the future.

Sport & Recreation Infrastructure Plan Feasibility Study

Council approved the Shire of Narrogin Draft Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Plan for the purpose of seeking public comment. The proposed plan outlines the concepts for a future shared sport and recreation facility for Narrogin at the Clayton Oval precinct.

Public comment is now invited for the two abovementioned draft plans. Documentation is available from the Shire Administration, the RW (Bob) Farr Memorial Library or can be viewed and downloaded on the Shire website www.narrogin.wa.gov.au/documents/current-community-consultations.

Waste Contract Renewal

The contract for the provision of domestic putrescible and recycling collections services has been extended for a further four years with Great Southern Waste. Owing to the decline of the recycling market, the Council agreed to adjust the annual charge to cover contractor costs and these costs will be reviewed annually by Council. Council has agreed to absorb this cost owing to the Pandemic, and there will be ZERO increase in Refuse and Recycling charges next financial year.

Lease to St John Ambulance

Council supported an application from St John Ambulance to lease a portion of the Narrogin Airport. St John have been successful in obtaining a grant to build a new RFDS transfer station providing for improved patient and volunteer comfort. The facility will be constructed on the new leased area.

Fees & Charges 2020/21

The 20/21 schedule of fees and charges were adopted and are effective from 1 July. There are no increases from the 19/20 levels due to the COVID19 pandemic.

Differential Rating 2020/21

Council approved the Narrogin Differential Rating strategy for the next financial year, noting that there be ZERO increases from the 2019/20 levels owing the COVID19 pandemic. The parity transition for Highbury townsites and farmers will be extended by one further year as a result.

Cropping of Shire Land

Council approved the Expression of Interest received from the Narrogin Hawks Football Club for cropping of Shire land on Mokine Road and at the Narrogin Airport for a period of two years ending 2022. The Club uses the funds raised from their cropping pursuit to fund the expenses of running their club facility at Clayton Oval.

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 Tuesday 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

Grader maintenance of the Shire's gravel road network has commenced due to recent rains. Gravel road maintenance will continue whilst there is moisture in the road surface.

Two LED display screens have been installed at the Narrogin Regional Leisure Centre car park for advertising of Shire community messaging.

Residents may have noticed that three mature date palms now stand near the entry to the Narrogin Leisure Centre. These palms were saved from the Narrogin Hospital where a heli pad will soon be situated. It is hoped that these transplanted palms thrive in this location and we are happy that we could successfully transplant them to their new home.

All capital road work projects for the 2019/20 financial year have been completed along with many other projects that will benefit the community.

The State Government has announced that outdoor play equipment can reopen from Saturday 6 June. The Shire prepared for this so our play equipment was ready for reopening including the application of disinfectant.

~ HOMECARE HIGHLIGHTS ~

Well COVID19 certainly hasn't slowed us down, it's been another busy month caring for our clients in the community, but we have just done things a little bit differently while Jessie House has been closed. We are very pleased to say that Jessie House is open again from Wednesday 10 June.

Renovations are continuing and the new furniture arrives this week and we intend to open for overnight respite by early July. It's been a time of change for a lot of people and it's nice to get back to normal again. Our office is open and we would be happy to show you around. Hope to see you soon.
From Wendy and the team at Homecare.

~ IMPORTANT DATES ~

5-12 July ~ NAIDOC Week
23 June ~ Ordinary Council Meeting

OUT 'n' ABOUT

Library Bike Station



A pop of yellow is now outside the front of the RW (Bob) Farr Memorial Library with the latest installation of a 'funky' bike station. Kynan for the Works crew has just finished the installation of the locally made bike station.

Picnic Anyone?



The Shire has recently installed barbeque facilities and a picnic shelter at Yilliminning Rock. Pictured is Ranger Guy and Executive Manager Azhar Awang inspecting the fully commissioned picnic area.

Yilliminning Reserve is a perfect place for an outing in the bush and to view the commemorative George Brockway Tree.

The George Brockway Tree is sign-posted in honour of one of Western Australia's most famous foresters.



~ LIBRARY NEWS ~

Welcome back – *we missed you!*

Since re-opening, the library has been fairly quiet as people get used to being able to access the facility again. Sadly, we still cannot supply the free tea and coffee, access to Newspapers and places to sit that used to be such integral part of the service. Some of our services will be limited while the virus is still active in Australia.

The library has been busy since the 2nd of June, with the Narrogin Dollars Covid 19 vouchers being distributed from our desk. A steady stream of people have arrived with their Driver's Licence in hand and the details of their presence on the Shire's Electoral Roll to be given their \$50 in vouchers.

People are enjoying the winter sunshine and meeting up with friends while waiting for the vouchers. Some of the staff from the YMCA are helping to distribute the vouchers and there have been lots of positive comments from people about the process.



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