



# Narrogin Narrative

December 2021



Shire of  
**Narrogin**



**From Days Gone By** - 3 December 1919 - Major Norman Brearley flew his Avro 504 bi-plane to Narrogin and provided 20 prominent residents with joyrides over Narrogin for 3£ 15 shillings each. George Bonney, a local agent and mapmaker, saw this as a promotional opportunity and dropped leaflets over Narrogin to advertise his business, but as he misjudged the east wind and his leaflets were scattered over the town cemetery instead.

## ~ PRESIDENT'S POST ~

In reviewing the past year, I would like to congratulate the Shire, our Construction and Maintenance Crews, our Gardeners, our Librarians, our caring Homecare Staff and our reliable Administration led by the executive and our Chief Executive Officer, Dale Stewart, on our achievements in 2021. Some achievements of note are being awarded the "Most Accessible Community in WA Awards in the category of Digital and Technology Accessibility Initiatives and the opening of Alby Park at the Narrogin Regional Leisure Centre. The Shire has also been successful in obtaining numerous grants including \$100,000 for Trail Improvements in Foxes Lair and Gnarojin Park, and another \$100,000 for the construction of a stormwater harvesting dam, which will be located behind the existing dam at Clayton Oval.

This year, we again had the pressures of Covid 19, but fortunately for Narrogin we were not impacted greatly, as compared to the previous year and other States.

In winter, an abundance of seasonal rains caused a number of road closures for an extended period of time. Repairs on these roads have since been completed.

Thank you to the former, continuing and new Elected Members for showing guidance and dedication in working towards obtaining the desired outcomes of the community's Strategic Plan. I would also like to thank the outgoing elected members, Geoff Ballard, Clive Barton and Sophie Lushy for their dedication and contributions during their time serving on Council. I was also humbled to have been nominated and received an Eminent Service Award at this year's Local Government Convention.

A huge thank you to all our hard working volunteers, community groups and clubs and emergency services personnel who keep us safe and make our community the great place it is to live. Remember, it is up to all of us, no matter how big or small, to continue to serve our community and help it build and grow.

I wish you all safe, prosperous and enjoyable holiday season.

*Narrogin — Love the Life*  
Leigh Ballard — Shire President

## ~ COUNCIL DECISIONS ~

The Council decisions made at the meeting held on 24 November 2021 include:

### Shire of Narrogin Public Health Plan

Council adopted the Shire of Narrogin Public Health Plan 2021-2026 and also 3 policies relating to this plan:

- The Healthy Eating Policy
- The Active Narrogin Policy
- The Alcohol and Drug Policy

### Boundary Encroachments

Council approved the property encroachments (water tank, gazebo and landscaped area) between No 34 Parry Court and Reserves 20605 and 37119 (Foxes Lair).

### New Car Yard

Council approved the establishment of a new Used Car Premise which will be located at 4 Kipling Street Narrogin. It is proposed that cars with a value of \$10,000 or less will be sold here.

### Plant and Fleet Replacement

Council adopted the 2021-2031 Ten year Plant Replacement Program Council also resolved to amend some of the Fees and Charges relating to the hire of Plant. These updated charges will apply from 1 January 2022.

### New Lawn Cemetery

Council adopted new fees and charges for the new Lawn area at the Narrogin Cemetery. This area is still under construction and is planned to be completed and ready for use by March 2022.

### Elected Member Training and Continuing Professional Development

Council amended its Elected Members Policy by adding the inclusion of Diploma of Local Government (Elected members) into this policy as an eligible training course.

### Upper Great Southern Hockey Association Lighting Upgrade Project

Council considered a proposal from the Upper Great Southern Hockey Association for additional finance to fund its contribution to the proposed

Lighting Upgrade Project. Council agreed to this proposal on the condition that these funds are repaid over 5 years at an interest rate of 2%. The project is going to cost \$406,000 with the State Government contributing \$165,000 and the Shire and UGSHA funding 50% each of the remaining.

*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.*

## ~ SHIRE NOTICES ~

### Roadworks and Projects

The works crew are currently undertaking maintenance throughout the Shire and responding to Customer Service Requests. If you wish to let us know about something of concern please report it through the Shire's website. Capital Works are progressing well, and all projects are on track to be completed this financial year, with 4km of the Wagin Wickepin Road being sealed at the moment. With the festive season fast upon us, it is timely to consider road safety whilst driving on any road. Please be patient with other road users. Speed and fatigue feature heavily with accident statistics so please drive within speed limits and take regular breaks to ensure your journey is a safe one.

### A Perfect Night for Stargazing

It was a beautiful clear and balmy evening for stargazing at Thomas Hogg Oval on 27 November. The evening kicked off with a sausage sizzle run by the Gnarojin Community Gardens followed by a welcome by Shire President Leigh Ballard and a presentation by Carol Redford from Astrotourism WA. Carol spoke eloquently about Narrogin's opportunities as one of the 15 Astrotourism Towns in WA, the possibilities for establishing local tourism businesses, the challenges of light pollution and the State Government's support for Dark Sky Tourism as well as the planning for the 2023 Ningaloo Total Solar Eclipse and associated opportunities.

Some 50 locals were joined by ten visitors to Narrogin to take advantage of Narrogin's inaugural Astrotourism event. They shared information about

dark night skies and enjoyed the opportunity to experience a good 60-90 minutes of uninterrupted viewing of Jupiter, Saturn, nebulae, star clusters, the Emu in the Sky and more through a total of six telescopes operated by five volunteers from Perth and Albany. A laser pointer tour of the night sky was included in the evening's activities to highlight constellations and what was visible on the night. One local resident brought his binoculars and telescope to share with visitors. Thank you, Steve!

This event was made possible with funding from the Shire of Narrogin. It is part of the Astrotourism WA project promoting Narrogin as a destination for stargazing and astrophotography.

## ~ HOMECARE HIGHLIGHTS ~

And just like that, we are in December and 2021 is coming to an end.

We would like to think that some positive things have come out of the covid pandemic. Technology has embraced new ways of communicating with more people working from home and virtual consultations which saves a lot of driving and time spent travelling.

Life has slowed down a bit and families have had to spend more time together because of lockdowns and enforced isolation. Board games are making a comeback as people have more time together.

But mostly we have learned who and what matters to us most and seen the world through other people's eyes. The year 2022 will hopefully be the year that travel opens up again so that families can see each other and be together for special occasions.

From 1 January 2022, all staff and volunteers at Homecare will be vaccinated as mandated by the Government. In the meantime stay safe and we hope you have a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas as we welcome in 2022.

## ~ IMPORTANT DATES ~

**~24 December — 4 January ~**  
The Administration Office, Works Depot, Library and Jessie House will be closed from 3.30pm on Friday 24 December and reopening at 8.30am on Tuesday 4 January 2022.

**~26 January 2022~**  
Australia Day Celebrations Narrogin Town Hall for breakfast & afterwards for family fun at the Narrogin Regional Leisure Centre.

## ~ LIBRARY NEWS ~

On Thursday 25 November, the R.W. (Bob) Farr Memorial Library ran a 'Poetry under the Stars' evening, in the garden outside the library. We provided a barbecue meal and we all shared poems that we enjoyed. Because of the success of the evening we will restart the bi monthly Poetry Cafes beginning in February 2022. Come along and share your own poetry or songs, read poems that you enjoy, and share a lovely, outdoor evening with like-minded people. Cost \$20 per person. \$10 per child under 12 years. We look forward to seeing you there for some poetry enjoyment.

Come and join the Online Book Club. Download the Freading app from Google Play or Apple App Store. Choose "Get Books" from the Bottom menu. Login. Select Australia and Find Library. Tap on relevant library, enter card number and tap on login.

## OUT 'n' ABOUT

2021 International Day of People with a Disability



On 3 December the Shire in conjunction with Amity Health hosted a joint event at the Narrogin Regional Leisure Centre, to celebrate International Day of People with Disability.



Harley and Anthony from the Works Crew planting a new row of Bottle Brush and verge improvements on Earl Street.



The opening hours for the Landfill Site during the Christmas period will be:

Saturday 25 Dec	Closed
Sunday 26 Dec	Closed
Monday 27 Dec	Closed
Tuesday 28 Dec	Closed
Wednesday 29 Dec	9am-5pm
Thursday 30 Dec	9am-5pm
Friday 31 Dec	9am-5pm
Saturday 1 Jan	Closed
Sunday 2 Jan	10am-4pm
Monday 3 Jan	Closed
Tuesday 4 Jan	10am-4pm

