



Narrogin Narrative

April 2020



OUT 'n' ABOUT

New facilities in Memorial Park



Local Contractors, including M&V Ranieri Building Contractors have recently competed construction of a fully accessible ablution facility and gazebo, water station and free electric BBQ to Memorial Park. Whilst not recommended for use at the moment, due to social distancing and stay at home requirements, it will perfect for ANZAC Day commemorations and other social gatherings in time.

With rolled on turf being laid in the next couple of weeks, it will look a treat!



Narrogin Cemetery's looking great!



New road and kerbing has recently been laid at the Cemetery. Thanks to local business Narrogin Earthmoving & Concrete for the supply and laying of the concrete on this project.

Library still here for you



Robyn Stringer, our lovely Library Services Officer and our other Library staff are still at work. Contact the Library for book & DVD delivery and collection options.

~ PRESIDENT'S POST ~

What a long journey we've all been on in a very short time. In turning on the TV you could be excused if you thought you were watching a futuristic science fiction movie.

At the time of writing, there are zero COVID-19 cases in Narrogin. We must all work to keep that number by following the advice of the authorities to protect yourself and stay at home, unless required otherwise, and practicing social distancing, diligent hand washing and covering coughs and sneezes appropriately. I know it is going to be hard, but if we all do our own bit, we can reduce the pressure on our health system and hopefully save lives.

We know you are all hurting, not least of which the many people that have been either stood down or had their small businesses severely curtailed or indeed prevented from trading.

The Shire, through the services of our Elected Members and its hardworking employees, will be considering adopting a range of potential relief and rebound measures to incorporate into our next 12 months of actions to help us rebound and recover as quickly as we can.

But now is the time that we need to hear your thoughts and ideas about how we, as a community, can rebound the quickest.

I therefore challenge you to have the conversation with your grandparents, parents and children and send us your suggestions to our email recovery@narrogin.wa.gov.au.

To get you started, think of it like this:
• If you had a spare \$1 million, how would you invest it in our community to maximise local spend and achieve the most targeted benefit in the next 3-6 months?

- What areas of our community do you believe we should support the most?
- Which businesses, industries, and community groups are most negatively impacted at the moment and in the next 12 months?
- How can we best re-deploy financial resources to assist, speed up our recovery and ensure we rebound more resilient and stronger than before.

Please also take into consideration everyone who is still working in Coles, Narrogin Fresh, the cafes with take away & home delivery, and the retail stores. They are regular people as well, doing an extraordinary job of keeping our shops open for you, so please thank them for their efforts.

Also, thank you to all our emergency service volunteers. They will still be there for us. Please be conscious of the fact that they would also rather be at home with their families, but are willing to volunteer for our community.

Lastly, but certainly not least, our health professionals who are on the front line and under immense pressure, but are still turning up to work for our community. Thank you.

If we can all work together, we can get through this, but it is going to be a long road. Once we have slowed the spread, it is important for us all to be

looking at rebuilding our community

Be strong, and most of all, be kind to each other. We are all in this together. Thank you.

Leigh Ballard ~ Shire President

~ COUNCIL DECISIONS ~

The Shire President opened the Ordinary Council Meeting of 24 March announcing the unprecedented affect the COVID crisis will have on the community. The scheduled presentation from ARTS Narrogin was unfortunately postponed. The Council decisions made at the meeting include:

Proposed Café - Council agreed to invite comments from the community and surrounding businesses about a proposed café in the Church Square old church building proposing an ancillary play area.

Narrogin Refuse Site - A Facility Management Plan was adopted for the White Road Refuse Site as a guideline and planning tool for its current and future direction.

Carpark Tree Planting - Council agreed to consider planting trees in the Narrogin Regional Recreation Centre carpark during its 2020/21 Budget deliberations.

Smith Street Ablutions - Council agreed with the Townscape Committee's recommendation to contact Coles to measure their interest in purchasing the Shire-owned toilet facility in the Coles carpark for the purpose of maintaining or converting to parking or indeed to consider other options.

Townscape Terms of Reference - Council agreed to adjust the Townscape Advisory Committee's number of meetings from four to six.

A Fraud & Corruption Prevention Policy and Plan were adopted by the Council.

Jessie House - Council approved the use of Reserve Funds to upgrade Jessie House so as to enable it to provide respite care from within the facility at an estimated cost of \$140,000.

Community Chest - Applications from Community Groups seeking funding for projects benefitting the wider community were approved as recommended by the Community Chest Reference Group (see the full minutes for detail of recipients on the Shire's website).

Professional Development - Council adopted a policy relating to the continuing professional development of elected members.

The full minutes can be found on the Shire's website. During the pandemic, Council Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month via Skype for Business. Community members are unfortunately not able to attend at this time. Questions for the Council should be submitted in writing at least 24 hours prior to enquiries@narrogin.wa.gov.au.

~ SHIRE NOTICES ~

Roadworks & Projects

Reconstruction and reseal works on Cooramining Road are now complete



From Days Gone By – Students from Narrogin State School, taken in 1919.

as is the newly constructed road in the Cemetery extension. The gravel resheeting of rural roads is also well underway with Chomley Road complete and Narrogin Valley Road started.

Advanced trees have now been planted on Ensign Street between Earl and Federal Streets and four mature palm trees from the Narrogin Hospital are scheduled to be transplanted, this month, to the Narrogin Regional Leisure Centre in partnership with the Narrogin Hospital and the WA Country Health Service. This is an exciting project and should present a lovely tropical facade to this regional facility.

~ HOMECARE HIGHLIGHTS ~

What a busy month it has been at Narrogin Regional Homecare. Our little world has been turned upside down by COVID19 requiring us to get our thinking caps on to come up with new and innovative ways, so that we can continue to provide services to our clients.

Our wonderful team of staff have all stepped up, donned masks, gloves and armed themselves with lashings of hand sanitizer and the services are, for the most part, continuing as normal.

In other exciting news, the Council approved funds for renovations to Jessie House which means, that in a few months' time, Homecare will be able to offer overnight respite and extended stay respite of up to a week in a safe, welcoming environment. We are all very excited and looking forward to seeing the end result.

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~SHIRE SERVICES DURING COVID19~

At the Shire, we continue to adhere to Government agency advice to keep our customers, employees and community as safe as possible.

Regrettably, we have altered our Administration Centre opening hours and procedures and have decided to minimise public access to the building. We ask that our customers utilise the Shire's comprehensive website to do their traditional over-the-counter transactions and payments, where possible.

Most vehicle and licencing activities can be processed online utilising the BPay details contained on the Department of Transport form, their website www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs or by telephoning them on 1300 655 322. We encourage the use of these facilities.

For those activities that cannot be undertaken online, such as Concessions, Learners Permits or medical endorsements, we ask that you contact our office on email enquiries@narrogin.wa.gov.au to make an appointment between the hours of 9:00am and 11:00am (Mon-Fri) so these transactions can be processed.

Whilst many Admin Shire employees are now working safely in their homes, we continue to pay suppliers, employees and contractors, as well as delivery of projects, maintenance of parks, gardens, footpaths and roads.

Rest assured, if you need assistance with any of our services, we are still here to answer your questions, and can assist you by telephoning 9890 0900 or email us on enquiries@narrogin.wa.gov.au.

~ LIBRARY NEWS ~

All current loans (except inter-library loans) are renewed until 3 August. Borrowers can return items to the blue box at the front door. There are free books, audio books and DVDs at the door to take if you wish - might be a good time for a free-read, and, if borrowers wish to pick up items from the library, just contact us by phone 9881 1751, email mls@narrogin.wa.gov.au, or through the web page <https://narrogin.libero.com.au/libero/WebOpac.cls> and we will arrange a bag of items for you to collect.

New members can enrol online at the address above. The links to online services are also available on this web page.

Our usual Housebound deliveries will still be available, plus any seniors over 70 can contact the Library and arrange free home delivery of items for the period the library is closed. We will also be providing on online Storytime, Rhymetime and Pyjama Storytime through Facebook very soon for the children, including a simple craft.

The Library doors might be closed, but we are still here working on new ways to support the community.



Shire of
Narrogin
Love the life

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