



# Narrogin Narrative

July 2021



## OUT 'n' ABOUT

### NAIDOC Week 2021



The Opening Ceremony included a Welcome to Country from Elder Basil Kickett, a smoking ceremony, didgeridoo playing, flag raising and some heart-felt music streamed from artists such as Gurrumul, Yothu Yindi and Coloured Stone. Pictured above is Shire officer Breanna Jetta-Bolton at the smoking ceremony.

### "Standing Up" Roadshow



Councillors Chontelle Stone and Janelle Sewell from the Australian Local Government Womens Association WA are visiting towns in the Wheatbelt encouraging more women to nominate in the upcoming local government elections. What a fantastic turnout for the Region!

### Model Rail Exhibit



Local Master Craftsman Morrie Russell's Narrogin miniature tiny town and railway precinct circa 1960 is taking shape and continues to grow day by day.

Pictured here is a model of the former David Jones store and Horden Hotel on the opposite corner.

Once complete, this 7 metre long N Scale Model Railway will be housed in the refurbished Narrogin Railway Station for all to see.

## ~ PRESIDENT'S POST ~

Last week was NAIDOC week and the Shire was proud to be associated with the opening ceremony celebrations held at Gnarrojin Park. Thank you to everyone on the NAIDOC Working Group for their in-kind assistance and support which made the week's celebrations possible.

The countdown is on with less than 100 days until the Local Government elections. It is important that if you have moved to Narrogin recently that you update your details on the electoral roll so that you can vote for your preferred nominated representatives for the Shire of Narrogin Council. Simply do this online with the WA Electoral Commission [elections.wa.gov.au](http://elections.wa.gov.au).

Initially postponed because of the June lockdown in Perth, the Australian Local Government Womens Association WA "Standing Up" roadshow was enthusiastically attended by women in our region wanting to know about the role of a Councillor and what the role entails. If you missed out, you can contact the Shire to find out where and when the next one is being held. The Shire, however will also be running an information event prior to the nomination date closure for all potential candidates thinking of nominating who would like an insight into the role of Councillor, or indeed, the role of Shire President.

It's great to see more business activation in the main street of Narrogin. Council recently approved an application by the South West Aboriginal Medical Service Aboriginal Corporation (SWAMS) to run a medical service from consulting rooms on the corner of Federal and Fortune Streets. We welcome the SWAMS to Narrogin who will initially have five staff, three of whom will be consultants.

Furthermore, a new Chinese food business has been approved to operate from the currently vacant restaurant right next door to the Newsagency. We wish them every success and I encourage our residents to continue to support all of our local businesses, where possible, with your purchasing power, to keep the businesses in Narrogin growing and vibrant.

The Shire is advocating to Roll Up for WA COVID-19 vaccinations and is asking its frontline employees, particularly those who work with the elderly and vulnerable, to be vaccinated. I urge you to book in for your COVID jab for the good of your own health and that of your nearest and dearest and the whole community. COVID is a dreadful virus claiming the lives of millions around the world. We are blessed to be so well protected here in WA and indeed Narrogin. However, if the world is to return to some "normality", we all need to "Roll Up" and give the vaccination rollout every chance.

Have you driven by the Railway Station recently? Doesn't the new roof look fantastic? Over 600 plants have been included in the landscaping and there is further landscaping yet to occur. The works are progressing well.

Love the life.  
Leigh Ballard ~ Shire President

## ~ COUNCIL DECISIONS ~

The Council decisions made at the meeting held on 23 June include:

**Tourism Accommodation**  
Council gave approval to advertise, for public comment, a development at 443 Kilpatrick Rd, Nomans Lake, consisting of five 'tiny homes' for tourist accommodation. The accommodation innovation will complement the already approved mountain bike track on the same property. See the [Community Consultations page](#) on the Shire website for full details and on how to have your say.

**Consulting Rooms**  
Council granted planning approval for the consulting rooms being established at 83 Federal Street by the SWAMS subject to conditions. The SWAMS Medical Centre will provide culturally appropriate primary health care services, chronic conditions management, prevention and early intervention programmes and maternal and child health.

**Ten-Year Footpath Plan**  
Council adopted a revised Ten-Year Footpath Construction Program. The Program is reviewed and revised periodically in line with community needs, unforeseen priorities and financial availability or restraints.

**Fees & Charges 2021/22**  
The proposed Fees & Charges for 2021/22 financial year were approved by Council and advertised as required for a period of 7 days. The new Fees & Charges become effective on 16 July 2021. In some cases, they reflect a two year increase because they were not increased in 2020/21 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

*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. Entrance to the Council Chambers is via the door near the William Kennedy Way carpark.*

## ~ SHIRE NOTICES ~

**Roadworks & Projects**  
Winter grading of rural gravel roads has commenced as well as drainage maintenance. Street sweeping and drainage maintenance within the town sites has commenced and is nearly complete.

Annual foot path repairs have been completed from our listed inspection however if you notice a problem with a footpath please contact us to help.

Winter is with us so this is a perfect time for planting. Do you have a street tree missing from the front of your verge? Why not contact the Shire and request a street tree? An officer will inspect the verge for the recommended tree species and planting can be organised at no cost to you and you may wish to care for the tree over summer by watering it once per week.

**E-Rates—Go Paperless!**  
Ratepayers can opt to receive their rates invoice conveniently by email. Consider going paperless and save



From Days Gone By – Taken in 1926—Staff outside the Shilling Store.

time, money and the environment. To receive your paperless rates notice, simply register via the online link. See [erateswa.com/narrogin](http://erateswa.com/narrogin).

**Be a Vocal Local.** and take part in Local Government Elections on Saturday, 16/10/2021.

Local Government plays a critical role in building and maintaining strong communities, and all electors have a democratic right to choose the Elected Members they believe will drive the strategic direction of their Council.

Voting in a local government election is not compulsory in Western Australia. However, all local electors are strongly encouraged to vote. Local government elections are conducted using the 'first past the post' system. This means the result of an election is determined by simply counting the number of votes received by each candidate and the candidates with the most votes win until all vacancies are filled.

Councillors are elected for terms of four years in Western Australia. Elections are held every two years for half of the Council, and candidates are elected using the first-past-the-post voting system.

So be a vocal local, and have your say. Learn more about your local candidates and exercise your right to vote in the October elections! To be able to vote, or to nominate as a Councillor you must be on the electoral roll.

## ~ HOMECARE HIGHLIGHTS ~

There is always something going on at Jessie House, but this month has been particularly busy as we have had lots

of people staying for Respite in the new homely facility in Jessie House. It is proving to be a very popular service being offered by the ever-growing Narrogin Regional Homecare team.

We are hiring again! Do you know a Registered Nurse who would like to work in the Homecare sector? We are currently recruiting for a RN to work from the lovely Jessie House facility on Clayton Road who is required for a 9-day-fortnight. Their key role is to provide clinical support and undertake assessments for our Community Care clients. If you know someone, please refer them to the Shire of Narrogin website and put in their expression of interest before the closing date of 26 July.

Due to this wet and cold weather, our clients have been choosing to not go very far for our monthly trips. However spring is just around the corner and we have some great ideas of places we can go, including day and overnight trips for those that like to travel a little further afield.

Meanwhile we are all enjoying the little bits of sunshine between the rain showers and waiting for the warmer weather. Stay warm and dry everyone.

## ~ IMPORTANT DATES ~

**July 2021**  
Rates Notices delivered

**28 July 2021**  
Ordinary Council Meeting

**27 August**  
Close of electoral roles

**2 September 2021**  
Shire President & Councillor nominations open - local elections.

## ~ LIBRARY NEWS ~

### Showerhead Swap

Even though the showerhead program is officially over, you are still able to exchange your showerheads at the library until our supplies run out. Just bring your old showerhead and your account number and you can have two new free showerheads for your house.

### Become a YouTube Star!

The ALIA Story Time / Australia Reads project is going really well. There are now eleven stories on YouTube for children to listen to. Just search YouTube / Shire of Narrogin / Australia Reads and all the stories will be available to view. Our latest addition is Raylene Storey reading 'Respect' for NAIDOC Week. If you or your children would like to join our staff in reading stories please come to the library and we will arrange a taping. You too can become a YouTube star!



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