



# Narrogin Narrative

July 2023



From Days Gone By – The Narrogin Scout Troop 1920

## ~ PRESIDENT'S POST ~

Welcome to the new financial year!

As the calendar turns to mark a fresh start, the Shire of Narrogin finds itself grappling with the annual challenge of balancing the diverse needs and expectations of Elected Members, Community Groups, residents, and ratepayers against the imperative of effective asset management. It is a demanding task, one that requires careful consideration and prudent decision-making.

The Council anticipates the adoption of the 2023/24 budget at the upcoming Council meeting, scheduled for the 26 of July. We are aware of the impact that rates have on households and businesses, and this knowledge was at the forefront of deliberations.

With the cost of living on the rise, now more than ever it is important to Buy Local, Shop Local and support our local businesses. The Narrogin Chamber of Commerce continues to administer the Narrogin Dollars and these can be purchased through Arts Narrogin and redeemed at participating businesses. I urge you to continue to look local and continue to support our local economy so that it is there for you and your families in the future.

The countdown has begun, and less than 100 days remain until the Local Government elections. To participate fully in shaping the future of the town, it was crucial for anyone who has recently relocated to Narrogin to ensure that their details are update on the electoral roll. By doing so, you can vote and have a say in the selection of your preferred representatives for the Narrogin Council. Details can be updated online through the WA Electoral Com-

mission's website at [elections.wa.gov.au](https://elections.wa.gov.au).

*Narrogin - Love the Life.*  
Leigh Ballard ~ Shire President

## ~ COUNCIL DECISIONS ~

The Council decisions made at the meeting held on 28 June 2023 include:

### Sundry Debtors Write Offs

Council approved the write off of sundry debtors totalling \$1,678.50. It was deemed that these amounts could not be recovered without incurring expenses greater than the income.

### Joint Management of Dryandra Woodlands National Park

Council resolved to write to the Shire's of Cuballing, Wandering & Williams to seek their support in writing to the Department of Biodiversity and Conservation Authority (DBCAs) and the Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation and request that these 2 organisations start discussions on the joint management of the Dryandra Woodlands National Park.

### Child Safe Awareness Policy

Council adopted a Child Safe Awareness Policy. This policy was developed in response to a recommendation of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. It is recognised that the Shire is uniquely placed within the community to assist local organisations to be child safe and to protect children and young people from harm and/or abuse. Resources and information are available on the Shire's website <https://www.narrogin.wa.gov.au/live/services/child-safety-awareness.aspx>

## ~ LIBRARY NEWS ~

The Narrogin Library would like to thank everyone who came along to farewell former Library Manger Kay Weaver on the 5<sup>th</sup> July. The library hosted an open afternoon tea with live music and plenty of laughter to thank Kay for her years of service and send her off in style.

Currently the Library is holding a book sale, with preloved library items including books, DVDs, CDs and more. Come and have a browse.

July's Rhyme-Time High Tea provided parents, grandparents, guardians and children a chance to socialise and enjoy music, rhymes and good food, while promoting early literacy skills in young children, so come along to the Narrogin Library on August 10<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am to join in the fun.

## Equal Employment Opportunity & Diversity & Inclusion Policy Amendment

Council adopted amendments to its Equal Employment Opportunities Policy to now include diversity and inclusion. The amendments are crucial for fostering a fair, inclusive, and productive work environment. This policy update acknowledges the evolving understanding of diversity and inclusion in the workplace, and in community interactions and reflects the Council's commitment to embracing these principles.

## Shire Logo Policy Amendment to Include "Love the Life"

Council approved amendments to the Shire Logo Policy to now include the motto 'Love the Life'. Local groups and businesses are encouraged to promote this motto.

*The full minutes can be found on the Shire's website. Council meetings commence at 7:00 pm 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 ~

### MTB Trails Upgrade

Through a successful collaboration between the Wheatbelt Cycling Collective and the Shire of Narrogin, Narrogin's Mountain Bike Trails have undergone remarkable improvements. The diligent efforts have resulted in enhanced signage, thoughtfully designed trail features, and an overall elevated experience for riders. These improvements have garnered positive feedback from experienced riders, reinforcing Narrogin's status as a destination worth considering for mountain biking enthusiasts. The dissemination of this information is encouraged, and riders are invited to prepare for an exploration of the trails, where an intriguing biking adventure can be expected amidst the surrounding natural landscapes.

### Foxes Lair Walk Trail Project

The Foxes Lair Walk Trails Project, sponsored by the Shire and Lotterywest Grant, was successfully completed last June. This extensive project spanned over two years and aimed to enhance the navigation and overall experience of the trails.

Significant improvements were made to the quality of the trails, ensuring they are easily accessible and well-maintained. Australian standard directional markers were installed, facilitating smooth navigation for visitors. The inclusion of interpretative panels along each trail offers walkers an educational experience, providing insights into the natural and cultural significance of the area.

The bushland reserve features a total of five walk trails, each with its unique attractions and recreational areas. Notably, a 170-meter-long wheelchair-accessible path was constructed, connecting the Marri picnic area to the lookout on the Breakaway Walk, promoting inclusivity and accessibility for all visitors.

The Foxes Lair Walk Trails Project is part of a broader Walk Trail upgrade initiative, encompassing Foxes Lair, Railway Dam Reserve, and Gnarrogin Park. The completion of the overall project is anticipated by the end of this calendar year, further enhancing the recreational opportunities and natural beauty of the area.

## Community Chest Fund

The Shire's biannual Community Chest funding, to a maximum of \$2,500 cash or in-kind for events or projects which benefit the Narrogin community, is currently open to eligible community-based organisations.

All of the forms are available from the Shire Website. Should you require a hard copy of the application form please visit the Shire's Administration Office.

Applications close 4:30 pm on 31 August and successful projects must be completed and acquitted by 30 June 2024.

## Community Water Supplies Partnership Program

The Shire of Narrogin has recently been advised that it has been successful in receiving an amount of \$75,600 for the construction of a 5,000kl storm-water dam at the Narrogin Aerodrome.

## ~ HOMECARE HIGHLIGHTS ~

A huge thank you to those clients who gave their time to provide feedback to the Auditors from the Aged Care Quality & Safety Commission. It was clear from the final assessment report that our clients feel that Narrogin Homecare offers a quality service.

The Auditors used the Aged Care Quality Standards to assess Homecare's performance of which the outcome was successful. We are extremely proud of our team and the standard of care that we endeavour to deliver.

In June, the monthly Gadabout group meandered down to Taffy's in Bunbury. Clients had the opportunity to experience the art of lolly making firsthand. The feedback we received was that everyone had a wonderful time and that there were plenty of banter and laughs all round.

At Jessie House, the clients and volunteers are eagerly working on their projects in readiness for their display at the Narrogin Show. It is coming along really well and we are looking forward to this event.

## ~ IMPORTANT DATES ~

~ 26 July 2023 ~

Ordinary Meeting of Council

~ 31 August 2023 ~

Community Chest Grant Funding Closes

~ 23 August 2023 ~

Ordinary Meeting of Council

## OUT N ABOUT



Above: Our newest Australian Citizens with Steve Martin MLC and Shire President Leigh Ballard.



Above: Wheatbelt Cycling Collective Representatives with Community Development Officer Anna Prysiazhana, & Chief Executive Officer Dale Stewart



Above: The Miniature Railway Station constructed by Morrie Russell, which is now housed at the Narrogin & Dryandra Visitors Centre (Narrogin Railway Station, Pioneer Drive).



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