



Narrogin Narrative

June 2023



OUT 'n' ABOUT

National Simultaneous Storytime was held at Memorial Park on 24 May 2023.



Well done to everyone who participated in the Slow Sloth Race as part of National Simultaneous Storytime.



Nelly crossing the finishing line in the slow Sloth race.



West Oz Geocaching

West Oz Geocaching recently celebrated its 10th Anniversary in Narrogin and surrounds. Pictured below are participants at Yilliminning Rock.



Participants at the geocaching information session held over the June long weekend.



~ PRESIDENT'S POST ~

The countdown is on with less than 6 months 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 at elections.wa.gov.au

It's great to see more business activation in the main street of Narrogin with the Chamber of Commerce President and I welcoming Saniti Clothing to town. 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.

With the cost of living on the rise, now more than ever it is important to Buy Local, Shop Local. Everywhere you look, television, radio and social media, this message is hitting home hard and strong.

The Narrogin Chamber of Commerce continues to administer the Narrogin Dollars project. This is a great gift to give, as the money stays in the local community as the Narrogin Dollars can be redeemed at most local and participating businesses.

A reminder that the free flu and COVID 19 vaccinations have been extended until the end of June. Now is the time to get your jab, for the good of your own health and that of your nearest and dearest and the whole community. COVID is still affecting people not only around the world but here in Narrogin as well.

Have you visited the Railway Station recently? Doesn't the miniature railway scene look fantastic. Morrie Russell has done a fantastic job. If you haven't seen it, it is definitely worth a look.

Recent rains have seen the majority of farmers coming to the end of seeding. Let's hope that the rain continues to fall and the upcoming season is a successful one.

Love the life.
Leigh Ballard ~ Shire President

~ COUNCIL DECISIONS ~

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

Telstra Wall Mural Proposal

Council resolved to not approve an artwork for installation on the Telstra building in Fortune Street at this stage. The Council believed that the proposal put forward by the Council's Townscape Advisory Committee, whilst meritorious, was not commensurate with the prominence of the site and location and the Council decided to roll the money over to the next Budget Year in order to consider more significant murals at this site and also the Good Shed Site, once that latter site was reclaimed.

Corporate Business Plan—2023 Review

Council adopted the Corporate Business Plan 2023-2027. A copy of this can be

found on the Shire's website <https://www.narrogin.wa.gov.au/documents/1459/corporate-business-plan-2023-2027>

Shire of Narrogin Differential Rating 2023/24

Council adopted (for the purposes of advertising) the rates in the dollar and minimum rates for the Gross Rental Value differential rate categories for the 2023/24 financial year for the urban properties of the Shire (those in the Townsites of Narrogin and Highbury and rural residential / urban used properties adjacent or near the town sites). The Urban Gross Rental Value has been set at 12.7712c and a minimum rate of \$1,249 and Rural Gross Rental Value at 9.6959c with a minimum rate of \$1,053 and lesser minimum of \$865. The proposal is out for public comment until Friday 23 June at 4pm. Details of the proposal can be viewed at [News Story - Notice of Intention to Levy Differential Rates 2023/24 » Shire of Narrogin](#).

Council Policy 3.6 Rating – Merger Parity Transition

Council adopted an amended Policy 3.6 Rating – Merger Parity Transition. This policy now reflects the pause in the transition agreement due to COVID, where no rates increases were applied across the whole Shire, by adding another year to the transition.

Amendment To Policy 3.13 To Incorporate 'Spot Rating'

Council adopted amendments to Policy 3.13 Rating – Change in Predominant Use of Rural Land. This policy has been amended to include "spot rating". Spot Rating is where a portion of a rural property is used for non-rural purposes and thus should be rated on Gross Rental Valuation (GRV) principles, resulting in higher rates being paid, which in turn spreads the burden more fairly on those more or less able to pay rates. The half a dozen businesses who will be affected by this policy change will be contacted and invited to make submissions to the Council.

YMCA Annual Budget For NRLC – 2023/24

Council declined the proposed budget submitted by the YMCA WA for the management of the Narrogin Regional Leisure Centre for the next financial year. The Shire President and Chief Executive Officer are seeking an urgent meeting with the Y's Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson to discuss this and other issues.

The full minutes can be found on the Shire's website. Council Meetings commence at 7pm and are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Community members are most welcome to attend.

~ SHIRE NOTICES ~

Lions Park

The Lions Club brought to the Shires attention concerns regarding some trees in the park. Upon close inspection of the trees, it was found that they were diseased, infested with white ants, structurally unsound and damaging other assets nearby in the park and



From Days Gone By – RN82: Narrogin Railway Station in 1936

consequently removed for public safety.

New more suitable broad canopy trees will be planted in their place soon for the provision of shade in time. It is also planned, pending the 2023/24 Budget, further upgrades for the park including the installation of inclusive swings, replacement footpath, additional seating, bin surrounds, and additional irrigation and turfed areas. It is envisaged that these proposed works, if approved, will be completed by December 2023.

Park Street Widening

A section of Park Street from the junction of Federal Street to near the CWA building is currently being widened. This will allow parking either side of the road and safe passing of traffic in this section.

West Oz Geocaching

West Oz Geocaching, a community dedicated to the popular outdoor activity of geocaching, recently celebrated its 10th anniversary of the WA Goes Big (WAGB) event.

Held in Narrogin, from Friday 2 June to Monday 5 June, the event attracted geocachers and community members from near and far. With its focus on exploration, adventure, and community engagement, geocaching offers a unique and free activity suitable for individuals of all ages.

The 10th anniversary of WAGB was a resounding success, attracting over 150 attendees throughout the weekend.

Impressively, approximately 18% of participants travelled from interstate or even overseas to take part in this exciting celebration.

Over the course of the event, both locals and visitors, had the opportunity to embark on geocaching adventures in nearby areas such as Dryandra and Yilliminning Rock.

These picturesque locations provided the perfect backdrop for the treasure hunt, encouraging exploration while immersing participants in the natural beauty of our town and surrounding areas.

~ Homecare Highlights ~

Twelve clients from Jessie House were keen to attend the West Arthur CRC for a Seniors Expo. They hopped in the bus driven by volunteer Neil Suckling and arrived safely in West Arthur. Topics up for discussion included the types of Aged Care Services that are available, an informative talk from OT Jenny Fowler on the differences between dementia, delirium and depression, some games to get everybody moving and also some discussion from Advocare mainly focusing on the types of Elder abuse and how to recognise it.

As a result of such wonderful volunteers dedicating their time to Jessie House – the clients have enjoyed an increase in the number of trips out and about and they enjoyed a movie again at the Betty Terry theatre in Wagin – watching the story of Michael Jordan – Air.

Our Gadabouts really enjoyed their trip to the reptile park – and Ivy got to handle a snake which shocked us all. We all said a fond farewell to Isobel Horrex who starts a new chapter of her life in Perth. She will be missed.

~ IMPORTANT DATES ~

~ 28 June 2023 ~

Ordinary Meeting of Council

~ LIBRARY NEWS ~

The Narrogin Community Garden and the library host a free Forget Me Not Café each month at the gardens with the next one being June 15 10.30am – 12noon. Anyone living with dementia and friends and family are welcome to attend. This is not a respite service.

On May 24 at 11am St Matthews School joined us for National Simultaneous Storytime at Memorial Park. We had a lovely time with the children enjoying making sloth hats and participating in a slow race. Thanks to Best Office for printing the book "The Speedy Sloth" into a 14-metre banner which was then used as a finish line for the race.

The new Poetry Café begins on the second Friday of each month at the Narrogin Motel Homestead restaurant at 6.30pm. Bring your own poetry or someone else's you enjoy, or just enjoy dinner while other people read. Table games, prizes and lots of fun to be had.



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