

Items of Interest

1. Regional Road Group Funding

At the WALGA Roads Forum held on the 19th November the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure announced that the State Government has approved an additional \$23.4m in funding for local government road projects in 2004/05. This extra money is to redress the shortfall in funding to local government in 03/04 and 04/05. The problem for local government is that the funding requires matching money on the usual 2:1 ratio. As Councils will have struck their budgets for 2004/05 it may be difficult to find the matching funds this late in the piece. Some options including the carry over matching funding

are being considered. For the Narrogin Shire it will mean a review of our future projects and bringing some forward.

2. WALGA Northern Country Zone

The Northern Country Zone of WALGA will be holding a structural reform forum titled "*Amalgamate, Cooperate or Disintegrate*". It will be held in March 2005 and is open to any Council to attend. The notice states that a vision for local government will be developed, issues surrounding reform discussed and potential models analysed.

3. Citizen of the Year Nominations

The Australia Day Council requires all nominations for Citizen of the Year Awards to be

submitted to by the 17th December 2004. Council will have to make its decision at the next Council Meeting the day before. So if you have any worthy nominations please let the Office know as soon as possible.

4. Christmas Functions

It has been arranged that the Councillor's and Partner's Christmas Function will be held at the Highbury Tavern on Tuesday, 21st December. Some alternative venues where investigated but it was decided to go to Highbury again this year. The Outside Staff will break up on the Thursday, 23rd December and a get-together has been arranged for that afternoon. The majority of staff will then take some leave until they return on the 4th January 2005.

In This Issue

Regional Road Group Funding	1
WALGA Northern Country Zone	2
Citizen of the Year	3
Christmas Functions	4
Current Roadworks	5
Highbury West Road	6

Special points of interest:

? Council Meeting,
16th Dec at **8.30am.**

? Christmas Function
21st December at
7.00pm.

Works Unit News

6. Current Roadworks

In the last couple of weeks the Works Unit has completed the clearing on Clayton Road in preparation for the importing of gravel. It was decided to widen the gravel shoulder in preparation for seal in the sec-

tion between Bradford Road and Rosedale Road. This will be a more economical option than just seal widening one kilometre at a time. The bitumen seal can go down next year.

7. Highbury West Road

The seal widening has been completed on Highbury West Road. It is now fully widened from Great Southern Hwy to Tarwonga Road. As there may be some funds remaining, white lining the road is being considered.