

# Narrogin

## Community Development Action Plan



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# Foreword

Throughout its modern history, Narrogin has attracted new settlers and refugees from around the country and the world, to establish a viable modern society in this place. Now we are a community of far greater diversity, with a new suite of capabilities and resources to help us continue to contribute to and maintain our community and its environment into the future.

Narrogin is changing as the world is changing around it. Global politics, technological developments in data management and communication continue to force us to respond in different ways to provide for a good life for ourselves and the whole community.

Historically, Narrogin grew up around the railways, becoming a farming and service centre then the regional hub for rurally focused government agencies. Various groups sprang up from both the business and not for profit sectors to provide the community with arts, culture, sport and all the expressions of what makes for a good quality of modern Australian life. Before white settlement though, Narrogin was always a significant place for the Wilman people. Many dreaming trails and songlines pass through this country and abundant food and water could be found to provide Wilman noongars with a good life.

Today, our community is acutely aware that despite all the good things we have, not all residents have flourished in the Narrogin District, and we want to see improvements for these sections of the community as well. We are a community with great desire to make Narrogin better for all our residents, to acknowledge the past and build a better future with the tools and resources of the present. Our Community Opportunities Workshop (C.O.W.) event identified many aspects requiring greater attention and resourcing, from youth service, Aboriginal issues, security, health and community education which this Community Action Plan will seek to address as it develops and evolves over time.

# Acknowledgements



The formulation of our Community Action Plan was initiated and funded by Rural Aid as part of their commitment to supporting Australia's small rural towns. The formulation of the Plan was undertaken by Peter Kenyon from the Bank of I.D.E.A.S., Jen Curnow-Trotter and Roger Hitchcock from Rural Aid and Londa Finlayson (Community Connector). Special thanks to the many passionate community members and organisations who gave so generously of their time, wisdom and experiences.



This Plan acknowledges the Noongar peoples of the Narrogin area and all ancestors and pioneers of this district, who through their care, hard work and foresight developed the Narrogin District to what it is today.

# Our Story



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Our thriving and robust community of Narrogin is a major regional centre in the South Central Wheatbelt of Western Australia, approximately 192 kilometres from Perth.

Narrogin is part of the traditional lands of the Noongar people of the South-West region of Western Australia. Noongar people have lived on this Boodja since the Nyitting - creation times.

There is some debate around the origins of the name 'Narrogin'. The name derives from the Aboriginal word for a pool in this area known as "Narroging", however meaning of the name is uncertain, various sources cite it as meaning "bat camp", "plenty of everything" or derived from "gnargagin" which means "place of water".

The first Europeans to visit the area were Hillman and his survey party who were exploring a track between Perth and Albany in 1835. Shepherds occasionally went through the area until 1853 when the first pastoralist, Edward Hamersley, took up a 5,000-acre lease. The 1860's and 1870's saw the area settled with a handful of pastoralists in isolated outposts.

Narrogin was officially declared a town in June 1897, and it was gazetted as a municipality in 1906. Wheat and sheep farming in the area was hard and farmers relied on sandalwood and mallee bark to supplement their incomes.

When The Great Southern Railway reached the district in 1889, the company which had won the railway contract, the WA Land Company, purchased Narrogin pool and it was around this pool that the town developed. Narrogin became a major rail centre connecting other rail lines in the Wheatbelt region to Perth and Albany. Narrogin's role as a major railway junction served as the catalyst to attract agricultural service industries and begin a legacy of wonderful heritage architecture. Between 1942-1944 the community hosted the RAAF No.25 Inland Aircraft Fuel Depot and in 1951 it was the site of the Australian Grand Prix.

Today, Narrogin has a population of approximately 5,000. The town has accumulated significant public infrastructure which has contributed to making Narrogin a modern regional centre for education, health, and many government agencies.



# Our Vision

A Vision Statement is a vivid description of what our community aspires to become, without its current barriers, but tied to what we value as a community.

The statement below is our intended outcome -

‘A vibrant, family friendly and safe community, that integrates traditional values and contemporary practices to support everyone to live, work, play and age well.’

# Our Goals

Below are the seven community goals which guide our community aspirations, namely -

- To provide a safe and attractive living and working environment that will attract and retain families, skilled people and businesses and help grow our population base and employment opportunities.
- To create an environment where our young people feel involved, supported, and empowered, and will consider returning to our community for work, business, family and lifestyle opportunities.
- To actively pursue new economic and entrepreneurial opportunities that strengthen and diversify our local economy and business life.
- To maintain strong sporting and cultural clubs, competitions, facilities, and traditions.
- To facilitate opportunities and experiences that builds upon local assets and the capacities and creativity of all community members.
- To actively promote and showcase our community as a great place to stop, stay, experience, and reside, especially through a vibrant and welcoming town centre.
- To promote, support and celebrate active citizenship, volunteerism, and community leadership.



# Our Guiding Values

The following ten guiding values and attitudes provide the context for our community's identified actions and initiatives, namely –

- **Community Pride and Connection** - ensuring all residents experience community connection, inclusion, and a sense of pride in our history, uniqueness, achievements, structures, and future.
- **Active Citizenship** - fostering attitudes and behaviours that encourage greater community engagement, volunteerism and ownership.
- **Collaboration** - appreciating community and stakeholder involvement, partnerships, collective action, volunteerism, and active citizenship.
- **Positive mindset** - fostering community attitudes that embrace change, proactive 'can-do' behaviours, optimism, and hopefulness.
- **Mutual Respect** - striving for community relationships built on integrity, understanding and acknowledgement of each member's unique gifts and contributions.
- **Respect for Heritage and Environment** - valuing our indigenous and non-indigenous heritage and culture, and our unique natural and built environment.
- **Intergenerational solidarity** - creating opportunities for all ages to share, support and learn from each other.
- **Embracing new opportunities** - building upon local assets, capacities, and creativity; and facilitating opportunities that enable all our residents to see and experience their community as a place of opportunity.
- **Resilience** - nurturing attitudes and behaviours that can respond positively to adversity and change.
- **Safety** - maintaining high levels of community safety, low crime rate and wellbeing.

# Our Challenges

Narrogin has a complex array of demographic, social, economic and environmental challenges as a result of its role as a regional centre for shopping, police, education, retirement accommodation, and medical and hospital services; a fairly stable population; its easy travel distance to the major centres of Bunbury and Perth; the sport, leisure and arts infrastructure, and its history of indigenous and immigrant residents.

We express these challenges as goals for building a more attractive community:

- Inspire a new generation of volunteers and leaders.
- Provide opportunities for an active and meaningful life for our older residents.
- Improve visitor and resident experience of the town and Shire attractions.
- Facilitate positive cultural and social interactions between disparate and isolated groups.
- Assist people affected by discrimination, social and domestic violence, intergenerational trauma, historical injustice, and structural inequity.
- Collaborate, involve, and empower disaffected sectors of the community.
- Attract and retain workers and professionals to businesses and services based in the town.
- Provide early childhood and childcare services to enable more women to join the workforce.
- Increase the availability of affordable housing for purchase and rental, including public housing and short-term worker accommodation.
- Support new retail and other business models to provide meaningful employment.
- Improve delivery of Commonwealth and State Government services in Narrogin.
- Attract and retain General Practitioners and allied health services.
- Engage youth in community activities designed to provide long-term opportunities to remain in the district.
- Invest in local tourism support services and enhance tourism appeal, visitor attraction and infrastructure.
- Improve networking, communication, and internet access services.
- Promote sustainable resource use and climate resilience.
- Appreciate and value the Noongar people's history, knowledge, and role in the Narrogin community.
- Establish a men's refuge and youth safe houses.

# Our Assets

## Institutions

- Educational Services-SR TAFE, Senior High School, 3 x Primary Schools, NSHS Residential Hostel, WA College of Agriculture, School Boards, P&Cs, University Hub. Shooting Stars, Clontarf Academy.
- Hospital, Primary Health, Disability providers
- After school care, childcare, playgroup.,
- State Agencies- Water Corp, Western Power, WAPOL, DCP, Parks and Wildlife, Agricultural Dept, Main Roads.
- Commonwealth Agencies- Telstra
- Shire of Narrogin, Leisure Centre, Library
- Emergency Services- DFES, Ambulance, SES.
- Age Care – Karinya, Meals on Wheels, Senior Citizens, Dillons, Jesse House Respite, Narrogin Regional Homecare
- Banks
- Post Office
- KEEDAC, SWAMS
- Wheatbelt Business Network.
- YMCA.

## People

- Sense of community.
- Artists, sporting talents.
- Strong and diverse arts and culture sector, musicians, drama group, ARTs Narrogin.
- Diverse range of trades and professional services.
- Health Alternatives.
- Volunteers.
- Narrogin Aboriginal Elders.
- All major sporting codes.
- Low crime.
- Medical and paramedical practitioners

## Physical

- Recreational facilities- ovals, indoor pool, hockey turf, senior citizens centre, Recreation/Leisure Centre, golf course, skate park, community gardens, BMX park, velodrome, children's playgrounds, art's space.
- Parks - Memorial, Gnarojin, Alby, Mackie, Lions
- Railway Dam, Yiliminning Rock and Dam.
- Foxes Lair, Barna Mia
- Clear skies.
- ARC Rail Dept.
- Creek.
- Airstrip, Aero club, Narrogin Gliding Club.
- Caravan Parks, RV sites.
- CAT's car
- Community of Highbury.
- Dryandra Woodland National Park

# Our Assets

## Social Networks

- Sporting Clubs - Eagles Sporting Club, Gymnastics, Rev Heads, Tai Chi, Judo, Football, Race, Basketball, Netball, Little Athletics, Hockey, Motorsport, Cricket, Swimming, Squash, Croquet, Bowls, Equestrian, Tennis, Golf, Archery, Taekwondo, Martial arts, Race & Pace, Speedboats, cycling group.
- Festival of Soccer
- Youth groups - Army Cadets, Girl Guides
- Service Clubs - Rotary, Lions, Probus, CWA
- Religious groups
- Cultural groups - Repertory Club, Drama Group, Narrogin Dance Centre, Arts Group
- Community Garden.
- Divine You.
- Men's Shed.
- Pool & Darts competition.
- Salvation Army Café.
  - Restoration Club

## Economic

- Strong Agricultural District.
- Special Events - Xmas markets, Flaming BBQ Festival, Rev Heads.
- Narrogin Chamber of Commerce - membership of 154 businesses.
- WBN, ARTs Narrogin.
- Agricultural services - Farm Suppliers, Farm Consultants, Biodiesel Plant, Agricultural Society
- Light Industrial Precinct.

## Culture, Stories & Sources of Pride

- Heritage buildings- Railway station, Town Hall, Butter Factory, Child Health Building,
- Heritage Trails.
- Museum, Visitor's Centre, History Archive
- Arts Narrogin, Arts precinct, Murals,
- ANZAC Memorial.
- Events- Art Show, Australia Day, Astro Tourism, RevHeads, Farmer's and Maker's Market
- Agricultural Show.
- Gnarojin Park - 'built in a day by community', public art
- Street Library.
- Dance group.
- Tidy towns - State Winner in 2021.







# Our Strategies & Actions

## Theme One

Strengthening Community Connections,  
Collaboration and Engagement

### ACTIONS

# 1

### STRATEGY IS TO SUPPORT INTEREST

1. Present the Narrogin Community Action Plan to the Shire of Narrogin.

Timeframe: Immediate

2. Establish a Task Team to design and implement Networking Narrogin as an initiative that seeks organisational collaboration - networking events, website, 'What's On' page, directory, and asset map.

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

3. Form a Task Team to implement the creation of a Ratepayers and Residents Action Group.

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

4. Create #narroginlovethelife initiative as a promotional and story sharing campaign to attract new residents and businesses to Narrogin.

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

### LEAD GROUP

Narrogin Community Builder Team  
Networking Narrogin Task Team  
Ratepayers and Residents Action Group Task Team  
Love the Life Team

### OTHER POTENTIAL PARTNERS

Narrogin Shire Council

# Our Strategies & Actions

## Theme Two

### Supporting Youth

**STRATEGY IS TO SEEK INFORMATION FROM YOUTH ABOUT THEIR OPINIONS AND IDEAS, AND SUPPORT TEAMS DEVELOPING SELECTED PROJECTS.**

#### ACTIONS

# 2

**Collate responses for direction. Review previous Youth survey for useful data. Plan for further meetings with youth groups over next 2 years.**

#### 1. Pump Track Project

Identified from COWs Youth session. Begin plan and funding for this. Encourage a project team to support The Shire of Narrogin working towards implementing this.

#### 2. Youth Council.

Support young leaders to form a Youth Council to represent and share ideas with community and Shire.

#### LEAD GROUP

**Narrogin Senior High School - COWS & Youth Groups  
Pump Track - Shire of Narrogin**

#### OTHER POTENTIAL PARTNERS

**YMCA**



# Our Strategies & Actions

## Theme Three

### Enhance Opportunities for our Young People

#### **STRATEGY IS TO SUPPORT TEAMS WITH PROJECTS TO ENHANCE AND ACTIVATE TOWNSCAPE**

#### **ACTIONS**

3

1. Create a Narrogin Town Team focused on improving the vitality and appeal of the CBD area. Register with Town Teams WA.
2. Help support any groups who become proactive in improving the vitality and appeal of the CBD and its businesses.

**Timeframe: Immediate**

#### **LEAD GROUP**

**Narrogin Town Teams  
Narrogin Community Builders**

#### **OTHER POTENTIAL PARTNERS**

**Lions Club of Narrogin  
Rotary Club of Narrogin  
Shire of Narrogin  
Narrogin Chamber of Commerce**



# Our Strategies & Actions

## Theme Four

### Developing local tourism potential

#### **STRATEGY IS TO SUPPORT TEAMS WITH PROJECTS TO ENHANCE TOURIST INFORMATION AND ATTRACTIONS.**

#### ACTIONS



- 1. Support the “Flaming BBQ Festival Rotary Club to hold the Flaming BBQ Festival** and encourage the development of this as a signature annual event and fund raiser for Narrogin.

**Time frame: Immediate and ongoing**

- 2. Support the Narrogin & Dryandra Visitor Centre to develop a tourism strategy:**

- An audit of current tourism attractions, facilities, events, trails, initiatives, and accommodation. Promote the publication of an information brochure for distribution.
- Review and promote regional tourism links and events.
- Promote opportunities for tourism product enhancement both current and emerging including local wildflower publication.
- Identify and promote the development of new tourism products and opportunities, including building on the current calendar of special events.
- Enhancement of marketing tools, customer service, community storytelling and operator networking.

**Time frame: Medium**

- 3. Support interest groups and the Narrogin Shire Council in promoting tourism potential through support for the “Railway Precinct Project”** including the return to Narrogin of Steam Locomotive PM706, the Narrogin Museum, the further development of the Narrogin Creek Precinct and the further development of the “Free Camping” areas.

**Time frame: Medium**

- 4. Undertake a Shire-wide signage audit and promote the implementation of improvements** in town entry statements, advertising and directional signage.

**Time frame: Short Term**

- 5. Support the Narrogin Shire Council in the design and implementation of public available electrical car / bike charging stations.**

**Time frame: Short Term**

- 6. Dream Big**

- Tourism Train through the Great Southern Railway network.
- Establish a team to research and develop intertown interest in promoting the return of tourism travel on the rail network possibly as a historical, cultural, food and arts-based venture.

**Time frame: Long Term**

#### LEAD GROUP

**Narrogin Shire Council  
Narrogin & Dryandra Visitor Centre**

#### OTHER PARTNERS

**Department of Biodiversity  
Parks and Attractions**



# Our Strategies & Actions

## Theme Five | Part 1

### Strengthening Community Support Services

#### **STRATEGY IS TO SUPPORT TEAMS WITH KEY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES**

#### **ACTIONS**



##### **1. Support the project to build a childcare centre**

This exciting project envisions a purpose-built centre combining meeting spaces, a range of child focussed services, such as Toy Library, day care, early childhood play groups and a place for community connections for young parents with a welcoming child friendly café.

The team driving this project have identified possible locations and developed initial designs and are now well positioned to move towards accessing funding for construction.

**Timeframe: Immediate and ongoing**

#### **LEAD GROUP**

**Narrogin Children & Families Inc (Project Owner)**  
**Narrogin Independent Playgroup**  
**Narrogin Early Years Network**  
**Amity Health**  
**Narrogin Toy Library**  
**Narrogin Child Health Committee**

#### **OTHER PARTNERS**

**Department of Communities**  
**Department of Health Promotion**  
**REED - Narrogin Outside School Hours Care**  
**All Primary Schools**  
**Kindilink**



# Our Strategies & Actions

## Theme Five | Part 2

### Strengthening Community Support Services

#### **STRATEGY IS TO SUPPORT TEAMS WITH KEY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES**

#### **ACTIONS**

# 5

#### **2. Support the group project to build a Gymnastics centre to support the ever-increasing number of gymnasts in the Narrogin district.**

a) The strategy is to gain local sponsorship, grants, and Government support to build a multipurpose facility including training facilities, meeting facilities and space for families to utilize, promoting a healthy and active lifestyle leading to the improvement of community relationships, developing skills and promoting healthy living practices.

b) To conduct future competitions between Southern WA regional centres leading to greater community and regional relationships.

**Timeframe: Immediate and ongoing**

#### **LEAD GROUP**

**Narrogin Gymnastics Club (Inc)**

#### **OTHER PARTNERS**

**Narrogin Shire council  
Lotterywest  
WA Government  
Sports WA**



# Narroogin

WESTERN AUSTRALIA



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