

Facelift planned for Noongar park

TAMEGAN PENNY-NARKLE

THE Community Arts Network in Narrogin plans to rejuvenate Gnarojin Park.

In the late 1930s, Gnarojin Park was a camping ground for Noongars and the main source for food and water.

The creek was also a birthing place for some Noongars and a transit camping ground for travelling families.

Geraldine Hayden and Ross Storey from CANWA have been working with The Town of Narrogin and some local Government agencies in getting support for the project.

"Part of the creek is a cultural mapping of our history and we want the whole community to know that it was not just a creek. There is a huge storyline there," Ms Hayden said.

Mr Storey has already put in some public art seats and will be adding more in November.

He is also looking at adding a men's meeting place to the park and adding more



The Gnarojin Creek due to be rejuvenated.

artwork. Allison Madson from the Department of Agriculture and Food said rejuvenating the creek was important.

"This would instil a really good sense of ownership for the Noongar community and be a great tourism aspect for Narrogin," she said.

Senior project manager of the Department of Indigenous Affairs Chris Parry said it was great to see local Noongars involved in a project like this.

"DIA is right behind the plans to rejuvenate the Narrogin Creek area because to

get it done will require community co-operation, community spirit and community pride. These are the projects that towns are good at. These are the projects that country people are good at," he said.

CANWA's aim is to revitalise the creek, clean it and plant native trees with the involvement of TAFE students, school kids and community members, and put signs in that identify the creek as a symbolic totem for the Noongar people.

CANWA is now waiting on the funding to start the project.