



Extended carpark: Spray seal is applied to the extended carpark near the tanker jetty, which should re-open this week. Photo: SHIRE OF ESPERANCE

## Tanker jetty to re-open

■ Tim Slater

The tanker jetty is expected to be re-opened this week after workers have completed the construction of a new car park.

Spray sealing, kerbing and line marking was being carried out late last week for the new car park that will provide 20 bays, according to Shire of Esperance chief executive Malcolm Scott.

"Once a safe access path is established we will be able to reopen the tanker jetty periodically around progress of landscaping work on the headland which is still a worksite," Mr Scott said. "We are working hard to reopen the jetty as quickly as possible and, at this stage, hope to have it open by Christmas."

Meanwhile, major construction works are continuing on the waterfront landscaping project.

The first link between the town centre and the new foreshore started

to take shape last week with the pouring of concrete for the Andrew Street staircase.

Shire of Esperance president Malcolm Heasman said the waterfront project, being carried out by local builders, Sime Building and Construction, was progressing well.

Excavation work for the extensive retaining walls, ramps and stairways has started at James Street and is protected from wave action by a reusable sand bag wall.

Work is also continuing along the length of the foreshore.

He said the landscaping work covers a large area and the entire site has been fenced off because infrastructure beneath the foreshore needs to be worked on simultaneously.

"When the landscaping work is complete we will have a world-class waterfront area for Esperance and I look forward to seeing the final result," Cr Heasman said.

# Country builder claims top prize

■ Tim Slater

An Esperance company has won a major building award, beating competitors from the Perth metropolitan area, for a townhouse development next to the tanker jetty.

BD Partington Building Contractors won the Housing Industry Association WA award in Perth recently.

Owner Brett Partington said the View Point apartments development, comprising seven apartments, had taken just over two years to complete, with construction starting in late 2010 and finishing earlier this year.

He said the win had highlighted the quality of local tradesmen and that country builders could compete with their metropolitan counterparts.

"We try 100 per cent and obviously the judges thought the same thing," Mr Partington said.

"After the awards presentation the chief judge came and saw me and said they were magnificent and hopefully we will go alright in the national awards.

"We will be representing Esperance and WA."

The judges' comments acknowledged the high level of professional tradesmanship in the construction of the buildings.

"The townhouses have all been designed to reflect resort living," the judges said.

"All have been superbly executed." The View Point apartments won the Great Southern regional finals in April after judges visited all the buildings that had been nominated for the award.

The apartments have slightly different floor plans, are individually titled and include common areas and gated entry.

Mr Partington will represent



Top notch: Brett Partington out the front of the View Point apartments, opposite the tanker jetty on the Esperance Esplanade. Photo: TIM SLATER

WA in the townhouse category at the national awards to be held at the Gold Coast next May.

Mr Partington's company also won the Kalgoorlie Miner-sponsored multi-residential dwelling

award for developments over \$800,000 for the View Point apartments at last year's Goldfields Esperance Master Builders Association excellence awards held in Esperance.

# Port's RFDS auxiliary reaches \$100k goal

■ Tim Slater

The Esperance community raised more than \$100,000 for the Royal Flying Doctor Service this year.

It is the second time in three years that the goal has been achieved and takes the total amount raised to \$730,000 since the Esperance RFDS auxiliary was formed in 1998.

Auxiliary president Helen Scott praised the community for its ongoing support of the vital service which provides an average of three flights a week into Esperance.

"Community grassroots fundraising has been at the heart and soul of the RFDS since it was started by Reverend Jon Flynn 85 years ago to form a mantle of safety for isolated areas in Australia," Mrs Scott said.

She said the money raised enabled the RFDS to purchase life-saving medical and aviation equipment.

Mrs Scott said the money was raised from three main sources, including 113 RFDS donation tins located in shops throughout the district, firewood cut by the wood cutters group and individual and group donations.

"In an environment where demand for the service is continuing



Governor visit: RFDS State chairman Neville Bassett (back), Esperance RFDS auxiliary members Marg Kerr, Daphne Fletcher, Jean Murray, Ian Scott (front), Lolita Mangubat, Tonya McCusker, WA Governor Malcolm McCusker and Esperance members Helen Scott and Nona Vine at Government House. Photo: SUPPLIED

to grow there is a need to expand the capabilities to cope with the growth and it is therefore so important for us to have the support of the community and fundraisers," she said.

"Whilst the State Government

has been very supportive of the RFDS, particularly in recent years, as has the corporate sector in WA, it's the fundraising efforts of individuals, communities and groups that makes the real difference to delivering services."

The auxiliary has 20 active committee members and another 80 helpers on its books that lend a hand when required.

The group of 22 wood cutters, led by Neil Livingston, meet every Wednesday during winter to col-

lect and cut firewood. This year they raised \$33,000.

The collection tins, which are managed by life member Eric Swann and Ian Scott, raised \$23,000.

Mrs Scott said other major fundraising activities held during the year included a May Day raffle that raised \$10,000, including \$4000 in donations.

Cliffs Natural Resources provided \$10,000 in sponsorship and donations and \$4300 from the Festival of the Wind Cliffs Junk Art Exhibition. Other fundraising activities included a quilters retreat, fox and rabbit shoots, wool sales, Melbourne Cup luncheon at the Esperance Bay Turf Club and private donations.

To celebrate the 85th anniversary of the RFDS, members from the Esperance auxiliary were recently invited to attend a morning tea and meet WA Governor Malcolm McCusker and his wife Tonya and visit the RFDS headquarters at Jandakot.

Last year, \$75,000 was raised, which followed \$100,000 in 2011 and \$86,000 in 2010.

The money raised is forwarded to the Kalgoorlie auxiliary who then sends it to the RFDS headquarters at Jandakot.