



06/11

Shire Wins Volunteer Award

The Shire of Esperance was named as a winner of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services' Volunteer Employer Recognition Awards (VERA) for their support of volunteers within the organisation. The VERAs acknowledge the significant contribution made by employers and self-employed volunteers in the delivery of emergency services in Western Australia. Esperance Shire President Ian Mickel said he was thankful the Shire was acknowledged with the award. "Esperance is a town that runs on the good will and hard work of numerous volunteers," he said. "I thank all of Esperance's volunteers from the bottom of my heart for all their generosity."

2020 NAIDOC Week Celebrations

The official opening of this year's NAIDOC week was hosted by the Shire of Esperance and Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation (ETNTAC) on November 9. The opening was followed by a week of celebrations held across Australia celebrating the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This year's theme was 'Always Was, Always Will Be.' ETNTAC Chairperson Gail Reynolds-Adamson said the theme resonated with all traditional owners and their journey to have their native title recognised. "Our spiritual connection and responsibility to care for country is fundamental to who we are as Aboriginal people, it is an obligation that has been passed down to us from our Elders and is what we must gift to the next generation," she said.



09/11

Esperance Business COVID Recovery Program Open

The Esperance Business COVID Recovery Program, administered by the Esperance Chamber of Commerce and Industry and supported by the Shire of Esperance, was officially opened to applications from small businesses last month. The program aims to support the local small business sector by assisting with payments of up to \$1000 to help ensure stronger COVID-19 resilience. The initiative draws from a pool of \$50,000, with a fifth of the funds to be used for administrative costs, generously donated by mining and exploration company IGO Limited for COVID-19 recovery projects earlier this year. Eligible businesses must fulfil a number of requirements. Applications to the program closed on December 1, however round two of the program is expected to be confirmed later in 2021.



10/11

Holiday Retail Days Extended

In a win for local business, the Shire of Esperance's application to extend retail trading hours over the Christmas/New Year period was accepted by the State Government. At the October Ordinary Council Meeting, Council endorsed a request for three additional trading days over the busy holiday period for the whole of the Esperance Shire. Shire of Esperance CEO Shane Burge said the extension was good news for local business operators. "We need to make sure our local businesses can capitalise on the higher-than-normal numbers Esperance is expected to receive over this period," he said.

The additional trading days are as follows:

Sunday 27 December 2020 – From 10.00AM until 4.00PM

Monday 28 December 2020 - From 10.00AM until 4.00PM

Sunday 3 January 2021 - From 10.00AM until 4.00PM



12/11

Upcoming Council Meetings

Agenda Briefing: 15 December 2020 at 1PM

Ordinary Council Meeting: 22 December 2020 at 4PM

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