

03/12

New Director of Corporate & Community Services



Felicity Baxter was appointed as the Shire of Esperance's new Director of Corporate & Community Services at the start of December. Mrs Baxter, who takes the position after Shane Burge was appointed as CEO earlier in the year, has over twelve years of experience working for local government and an extensive career in private industry. Commencing her position February 8, Mrs Baxter will provide strategic management for Finance, Information & Communications Systems, Administration and Governance, Customer Service, Records Management, Human Resources and Community & Economic Development. Mrs Baxter said she was looking forward to making a contribution to the community and getting to know both the community and staff of the Shire of Esperance.

Shire Receives CCTV Funding

The Shire of Esperance has received a \$210,000 grant from WA Police's State CCTV Strategy Infrastructure Fund for CCTV upgrades in the Esperance township central business district. The funding will go towards upgrades outlined in phase one of the Shire's upcoming CCTV Master Plan, which is currently being developed in consultation with local police and lays out a phased approach to the upgrade and installation of CCTV for Esperance's town centre. The Plan is expected to go before Council in the near future with the CCTV upgrades to follow in 2021. Esperance Shire President Ian Mickel said the upgraded CCTV would benefit the town. "Esperance is already a very safe place to live and this will just be an extra tool for local law enforcement," he said.

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6450 Job Connection

The Shire of Esperance has teamed up with the Esperance Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ECCI) and Goldfields Esperance Development Committee (GEDC) to create and promote the 6450 Job Connection Initiative, which aims to connect local employers to potential employees. The initiative involves a marketing campaign promoting jobs to locals and visitors, helping to address the labour shortage that businesses are currently experiencing. The initiative was allotted \$4,000 by the COVID-19 Local Recovery Committee, funded by IGO Limited, for the production of two videos promoting Esperance as a "work destination". The two videos and more information can be found at www.esperance.wa.gov.au/erric.

With the current shortage in rental properties and many businesses trying to recruit additional staff, the old Blue Waters Lodge is being made available, with funding through the State Government as short-term workers accommodation.

Edge of the Bay Festival 2020

The Shire of Esperance's Edge of the Bay Festival was a huge success on December 5, with over 3000 attendees gathering at the Youth Precinct to take part in the event. Supported by Horizon Power, Southern Ports, 103.9 Hope FM, Freight Lines Group and Lotterywest, this year's festival was the biggest ever welcoming over 60 stallholders, food vendors and community groups. A vibrant flying kite display decorated the beach, laser tag was played amongst the trees and art & craft activities took place alongside the action-packed skate park. Battle of the Bay presentations were held in the afternoon to a crowd of local and visiting competitors.

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Upcoming Council Meetings

Agenda Briefing: 19 January 2021 at 1PM

Ordinary Council Meeting: 27 January 2021 at 4PM

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