



Councillor Column

The Clubs that Run our Community

This is my first column for 2018, and I hope it is going to be a good year for us all, full of celebrations and achievements and the overcoming of challenges that are inevitably thrown up to us in life.

We had an amazing farewell to 2017 and welcomed in 2018 with a community event that has continued to be the topic of many conversations I have had in the past few weeks. Rotary Club of Esperance Bay, and their Esperance Foreshore Festival and Fireworks Committee 2017, excelled themselves in providing spectacular entertainment for the community and visitors to our town on New Year's Eve.

Thousands of people flocked to partake in the activities, eat from the food vans, draw on the pavements in chalk, and throw a rug on the grass to enjoy a picnic and a visual feast of pyrotechnics! Those that weren't on the foreshore sat in cars at vantage points overlooking the bay, or enjoyed a beverage from a verandah with a view. This event is an example of what a vibrant, caring community is all about, and as we head off into 2018 it is important to reflect on the huge amount of volunteer hours that clubs like Rotary provide.

Whilst acknowledging that there is financial support from other agencies as well as from the club's own coffers, and Shire support with road closures and event set up and pack up, it is the committed community volunteers who continue to run and drive these sort of events. We need to recognise that in this fast paced world, where so many people are time poor, it is the dedication of our community volunteers that provides so many wonderful experiences for people to enjoy.

I had the honour of opening the new sheds for The Esperance Mechanical Restoration Group on McLaren Road last week. What a facility that is! Once again, another group of community minded citizens ensuring that our past history is preserved and captured for current and future generations to learn from. These community members not only source and restore old machinery and agricultural implements, but have a team of ladies who fundraise tirelessly to contribute to the club coffers.

On Australia Day our other Rotarians from the Rotary Club Esperance will run our Aus Day celebrations in Adventureland Park. Thanks in advance for your highly valued contribution to our hugely appreciative community.