

Councillor Column

Welcome New Councillors

Local Government Elections are a busy and exciting time. Whilst it is sad to say farewell some Councillors, we extend a warm welcome to the new faces. It is good to have different ideas and perspectives during discussions to add to the experience of Council.

I would like to congratulate and welcome Shelley Payne, Steve McMullen and Dale Piercey to Council representing the Town Ward and congratulate Basil Parker on his re-election to the Rural Ward.

Our new Councillors have a steep learning curve and I commend them for putting their hand up. Being a Councillor is hard work, and involves attending meetings, a lot of research and making tough decisions; however it can be an extremely rewarding experience as well. Council faces some significant decisions in the future including the Greater Sports Ground redevelopment, the jetty, the new landfill site and many other projects.

It is also important to acknowledge all those who nominated for Council, but did not get in this time. Those that have been elected to council along with the existing councillors form a group of people who represent the diverse and varied concerns and aspirations of our community.

I'd like to recognise Cr Beverly Stewart JP who did not nominate to stand this term. She has been a Councillor for the Shire of Esperance for over 22 years, a Deputy Shire President from 2003-2009, Deputy Chair of Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (GVROC), as well as representing Council on numerous committees during her term. I would like to acknowledge her dedication to the community and wish her all the best in the future.

I would like to thank Kevin Hall and Paul Griffiths who have spent four and six years on Council respectively. I wish them all the best and I know they will continue to be wonderful advocates for the Esperance community.

We now move onwards and upwards with a new Council team who have the best interests of our community at heart. There are challenges ahead for all local government councils as they plunge into another term of office. If you want to meet the Council that represents you, please come along to a Ordinary Council Meeting. The dates are advertised on the Shire website and I would encourage you to use this platform to keep informed on what is happening in our community.