



## FROM THE COAST

### Chinese Consul-General Visits Esperance

As Shire President there are many rewarding moments which serve as a reminder as to why the role is such a privilege. Last week the Shire welcomed the Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Perth Lei Kezhong for the first time, along with Consul Wei Liang, Consul Zheng Min and Consul Yu Qiang. Councillors and staff took them on a tour of some of the highlights in Esperance and as in previous visits from delegates, the weather provided the perfect climate to show off our beautiful part of the world.

The delegates were given a tour of Southern Ports Authority Facility which is the largest nickel concentrate exporting port in the southern hemisphere. It is the gateway to world markets for Australia's principal nickel mining region. The tour allowed our visitors to witness the amount of infrastructure required to be a small, yet very efficient regional port. This was of great interest to our trading partners.

Our visitors were shown the Esperance Stonehenge, which is the only full size replica of the original Stonehenge in England. It looks just as the original would have looked around 1950BC and consists of 137 stones of Esperance Pink Granite that were all quarried locally less than 1km from the Stonehenge's final resting place.

A tour of Lucky Bay Seafood (Abalone Factory), which harvests wild abalone from their natural wild habitats in Southern WA, was extremely well received. Lucky Bay Seafoods is owned by shareholders who are abalone quota holders in WA, which guarantees continuity of supply as the largest abalone processor in the state. Historically and into the future, the Western Australian Commercial Wild Abalone Fishery is one of the most sustainable commercial fisheries in the world.

The delegates visited the Olive Planation at Yirri Grove and sampled some of the locally grown olive oil products and Lucky Bay Brewing quenched our esteemed visitors thirst with their craft beers. Coming from the heart of our barley producing region, Lucky Bay Brewing is part of the local farming community.

Showcasing our region wouldn't be complete without a visit to local farms and the visitors were particularly impressed with our world class agricultural industry, and pristine beaches. It was wonderful to be able to further build on our mutually beneficial relationship with the Chinese delegates, and it was a pleasure to take our visitors around and showcase the kinds of treasures in our own backyard we can so easily take for granted.

There is nothing quite like seeing your own region through the eyes of someone seeing it for the very first time. There is a lot for us to be proud of!