



## FROM THE COAST

### Community Grants Help Communities

This coming weekend will see the little town of Condingup heaving at the seams due to the annual P&C's Condingup Community Fair. The Fair is a highly anticipated event and is a significant source of fundraising for the P&C to help with the upkeep of educational resources and play equipment. It is also an opportunity to showcase local businesses and talent and will feature a large selection of activities for the whole family.

This year's fair is a particularly important one for the community to get behind. In July last year fire damaged the school's buildings, grounds and teaching resources. When you think about how much is built up over 51 years, it's devastating to think how long it will take to replace what has been lost.

The Shire of Esperance is pleased to have been able to get behind the P&C Condingup Community Fair by granting funds from the Community Grants Program. This has enabled the P&C to offer free entry this year which will hopefully encourage more people than ever to head out in support of the school, the town and local business in Esperance.

The Community Grants Program was set up for just this reason – to assist community groups who provide valuable community, cultural, environmental, sporting and recreational services and activities. It is the Shire's principal community investment program aimed at developing and actively supporting community organisations and individuals. It is an opportunity to recognise leadership and individual achievement, build community capacity and sustainability, develop cultural identity and support initiatives that meet community needs.

The Community Grants Program for 2016/17 is now open, and those in the community with an idea that can positively contribute to community wellbeing and the cultural life of our region are encouraged to apply. Due to the high demand for funding not all grant applications can be approved, so applicants are encouraged to download and read the Community Grants Program Guidelines on the Shire website before applying.

You can also support community groups and keep events like the Condingup Fair running each year by simply attending! This year there will be lots of children's activities, Esperance rodeo and Gymkhana, sheep races, dog high jumps, local music, and author Fleur MacDonald will be launching her latest book, *Indigo Storm* at the fair. Shire of Esperance Councillors will be holding a Council Corner for you to discuss ideas for the tanker jetty replacement and to fill in a survey.

There's no doubt the Condingup Community Fair will once again provide something for the whole family, and the community at large. So get behind those proactive people in our community by heading along and enjoying so much of what we have to celebrate in the shire of Esperance.