

Councillor Column

By Shire President Victoria Brown

We are so fortunate to live in a place with such beautiful natural assets and it is important we each do our part in looking after it. The Shire of Esperance was successful in receiving funding from 2017 State Natural Resource Management Program Community Action Grants for several projects and a Coastwest Grant.

Lake Monjingu was one of the recipients receiving funding and this has gone towards restoring and improving what was destroyed by the 2015 bushfire. It is fantastic to see Lake Monjingu returning to its former glory after all the work Brian Warren achieved during his tenure, and this is thanks to the dedicated work from Shire staff, the Work for the Dole team, South Coast NRM works team and local contractors.

Funding has assisted in upgrading and rehabilitating some of our coastal areas and includes signage, formalisation of access paths, weed management and dune rehabilitation in areas including Castletown Quays and Twilight Beach. Work at Quagi Beach is also underway at the campground to upgrade camping bays, picnic areas, beach access points, parking, signage and rehabilitation of degraded vegetation.

There are also a few things we can do ourselves to look after our environment. It is a shame that not everyone takes their litter and it is always appreciated when people pick up after those who don't seem to care about the environment. We can make sure we stick to tracks and paths preventing erosion and the spread of dieback in some areas.

We also have some amazing spots to explore, some of which are only accessible by four-wheel drive. It is great to be able to visit these spots to camp, fish, swim and surf and these spots really showcase the Esperance region. If we create informal access ways we can damage our natural environment, by sticking to the tracks we are looking after our plants and animals. There is also nothing better than camping out in one of our beautiful camp spots. It is important to remember to keep them tidy and look after camp fires responsibly. How great is it to toast marshmallows over a camp fire with family and friends?

We have some amazing community groups, Shire staff and individuals who work tirelessly for the benefit of our environment. We live in a spectacular part of the world so let's look after it so we can all continue to enjoy it!