

FROM THE COAST

Christmas in Esperance

The festive season in Esperance is in full swing following the success of Edge of the Bay and the Christmas Pageant. Christmas is a joyful time of year and provides us with a break to enjoy time with family and friends. Approaching the end of the calendar year gives us an opportunity to look back at the year, see what we have learned, and think about what we want to accomplish in the future.

Celebrations for the year included the Australia Day Community Citizen of the Year Awards, Festival of the Wind, Blessing of the Roads, the beautiful banners displayed for NAIDOC week and many more. The One and All School Holiday programs kept us busy with all sorts of activities and we had many beautiful designs in our Banners in the Terrace competition. The popularity of our skate park was shown off with three lots of skate clinics booking out and the inclusion of Esperance in the King of Concrete Skate Bowl Competition.

Tourism and waste became two popular topics for discussion and these are highlighted in the Strategic Community Plan 2017-2027. This document was refreshed this year and will guide the Shire and the Esperance community over the next 10 years. Being clever about reducing the amount of waste we produce and how to deal with waste is even more prevalent at Christmas time.

We struck a new deal with REX for a three year partnership agreement that will see the continuation of the Rex Community fare, which was great for our community, and so many people turned out for the different community planting days that were held this year.

Our community was recognised through Coastal Bravery Awards, Excellence in Volunteer Management, Fire Service Awards and Esperance SES won the team award at the WA Emergency Services Awards just to name a few. They had to deal with a fair bit of adversity this year in various shapes and forms.

A lot has changed in Esperance this year and I would like to thank everyone for their patience as work is completed around town. We have big projects continuing in 2018 and a few more to commence, but there's no doubt 2017 has kept us busy! On behalf of Council and the Shire of Esperance, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.