



FROM THE COAST

Community Grants

Did you head out to the Volleyball at West Beach on the long weekend or to the Australia Day Celebrations at Adventureland Park? Both of these events were supported by the Shire of Esperance's Community Grants Program.

The Esperance Volleyball Association Inc received funding to host the Alcohol Think Again Beach Volleyball Tour Esperance Round and the Rotary Club of Esperance Inc received funding for the Australia Day celebrations. Some of last year's grant recipients also include the Esperance Brass Band for Operational Costs, the Condingup Primary School P&C for the 2017 Condingup P&C Community Fair and Esperance Soccer Club for the 2017 Esperance Inter-Regional Soccer Carnival.

Community, sporting, arts and service groups all play a vital role in our community. They host events, run activities and provide a place for people to belong. Often it's grants from different bodies that help make many of these things possible.

The Community Grants Program for 2017/2018 is now open and this is an opportunity for community groups to apply to Council for grants. This program has been running for more than 15 years and allows the Council to recognise leadership, help build community groups, develop cultural identity and support ideas that address community needs.

The program was set up to assist community groups who provide services and activities for the community, from cultural to environmental, to sporting and recreational. It is the Shire's primary investment program aimed at developing and actively supporting community organisations and individuals.

We generally receive a high volume of grant applications and unfortunately we can't approve them all. It is a good idea to start working on your application early so you put forward the best case to Council. This is a competitive grants program and applicants are encouraged to read the Community Grants Program Guidelines on the Shire website before applying.

Applications for the Assistance, Development and Events categories are open now until 28 April 2017 and recipients of the Community Grants will be decided on in June. Support grants are open all year round.

These grants are an excellent way for community groups to get the ball rolling for projects, events or new gear. It is always great to be able to recognise community groups and help support the hard work they put in to benefitting the community.