



## FROM THE COAST

### French Exchange

The Shire of Esperance has two young students off to France next month as part of a four week exchange in the Île de Ré region in France. Congratulations to Dana Sharpe and Liam Harris who were the successful students selected.

Dana and Liam will be off on their adventure soon and I am sure they will make Esperance proud. I look forward to hearing about their experiences when they return. They'll be taking a canvas print of Admiral D'Entrecasteaux's 1792 map of the Recherche Archipelago to present to the President of the Île de Ré region.

Our students will enjoy time with their host families over the school holidays before attending school for a couple of weeks in France. Students between 15 and 18 have been representing Esperance in the Twin Towns Student Exchange Program since 1990 and this is a great way to build our relationship with our Twin Town. The exchange is a great opportunity speak French, try new foods, meet new people and enjoy new experiences.

Esperance's Twin Town relationship is with the Île de Ré region in France and our connection to France dates back to December 1792 when the ships "L'Espérance" and "La Recherche", commanded by Admiral D'Entrecasteaux, anchored in the bay and carried out some exploration.

The Shire also has an Esperance Twin Town Committee and their job is to make recommendations to Council on developing and fostering the relationship with Île de Ré. The relationship helps to promote economic, social, cultural and educational links and a student exchange program to encourage an understanding of the French culture and the involvement of France in the early history of Esperance.

In recognition of Esperance's French connections we celebrate Bastille Day which is coming up later this year. The Esperance Twin Towns Committee will be hosting a French Film Night at the Bijou Theatre on Friday 14 July. It will be screening "My Afternoon with Marguerite" and you can enjoy the evening with a glass of wine and cheese which is included in the \$20 ticket price. On Sunday 16 July the Esperance Village Markets in the Museum Village will have a French flair. You'll be able to find out more about our Twin Towns Committee and the student exchange program, sample some cheese and watch the presentations of the Esperance Cycling Club's Tour de Esperance.