

FROM THE COAST

Who looks after that?

There are many assets within the Shire of Esperance that get looked after, but we do not always think about how the job gets done. The plants in our roundabouts and the grass we play our sports on are maintained, but often we don't see the team looking after this.

The Shire's Parks and Environment team look after a range of areas we use every day and often work in the early hours of the morning. They inspect trees and prune as required, check irrigation systems to make sure they are running effectively, mow all of our parks and ovals and maintain all our lovely landscaped areas around town.

Recently, you may have noticed the roundabouts and verges in our town centre receiving a bit of love. The days of having ornamental gardens, with flowers like roses and tulips, are behind us now as they require a lot of water. We now utilise Australian native plants which once established can survive on just rainfall. Most spots are no longer reticulated which saves approximately 35,000L of water per year. Mulch is used extensively and about three years ago the Shire put in artificial grass in several locations in the town to help save water.

The Shire's Parks and Environment team are currently working on several projects. Working with community groups and local contractors, signage has been installed and walk trails have been upgraded at Lake Monjilup, and an Environment Centre and toilet facilities are planned for later in the year. Upgrades at the Quagi Beach campsite are almost complete, with a few more additions to come.

Rehabilitation works in our coastal reserves are ongoing, and the Castletown Quays rehabilitation project is well underway with planting scheduled to take place this month. Rehabilitation work at Twilight Beach to prevent erosion is ongoing.

The team has worked on a new playground at Beaumont Community Hall, and the Condingup Recreation Grounds playground is almost complete with an exciting nature play component planned. The playground at the Greater Sports Ground is currently being installed at the moment which should be complete by the end of the month.

Staff are constantly meeting with environmental groups in the community and working with school groups on projects like planting trees, providing a great opportunity for the community to work together.