

## FROM THE COAST

### Volunteer Week

It was devastating to hear the news of the tragic loss of Laetitia Brouwer over the Easter weekend at Wylie Bay. We continue to keep Laetitia's family and friends in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. Many members of the Esperance community were involved that afternoon on the beach. The response from our emergency services was second to none. Thank you to those who worked so hard to fight for the best possible outcome, many of whom were volunteers.

A memorial paddle out for Laetitia was organised by local surfers with a significant turnout from the Esperance community. Our community has always been great at supporting one another in times of need and the input of the volunteers is what made this paddle out so special.

Lately the Esperance community has had to face some tough times. Fortunately we have dedicated people in our emergency services including St John's Ambulance, SES, DFES, local police, and many other agencies, many of which are volunteers, who worked tirelessly throughout the year in variety of areas.

Volunteer Week is this month. This is a fantastic opportunity to recognise the volunteers in our community and celebrate the work they do. Volunteers are a part of every community and we rely on them for so many things. From firefighters to lifesavers to sports coaches and to those just lending a hand, volunteers help to get things done. There are many groups providing services that rely on volunteers to keep them going. Volunteering is also a great way to meet new people, try new things and learn new skills and is a rewarding way to give back to the community.

We have a Volunteer Resource Centre which helps link volunteers up with places they can help, and they also have equipment that different volunteer groups can hire. They are active on Facebook sharing tips and opportunities for volunteering.

Volunteers work hard for their cause and have to manage their time and families with their often already busy schedules. Volunteer week gives us an opportunity to thank our volunteers for their hard work.

In Esperance we have several events for Volunteer Week. There will be workshops on Compelling Communication and Emotional Resilience and a Sundowner that celebrates volunteering. Volunteer week runs from the 8 to 14 May and you can find out more information on the Shire's website.