

## FROM THE COAST

### Youth Advisory Council

Last week the Shire of Esperance announced the members of our new Youth Advisory Council. I would like to congratulate Maddilyn McGrinder, Ellen Timmins, Lucy Hart, Fin Johnson, Ivy Shillington, Emily Parker, Hannah Lauritsen, Isabella Raszyk, Eloise Lochowicz, David Greatz, Clayton Barnett, Claudia Hodges, Charlee Osborn and Dana Sharpe who have been appointed as members to the Youth Advisory Council and Esther Bell who has been appointed as an ex-officio.

We know we have some enthusiastic and amazing youth within the Esperance community and I look forward to hearing about the ideas the Youth Advisory Council has to engage with other youth and the entire community.

One project the group will work on is developing an event or program that best suits a broad collection of young people in the Esperance community. The group could come up with all sorts of ideas, it could be a music festival or games nights, it's really up to them. It will be refreshing to hear what our Youth Advisory Council comes up with and it will be exciting to see them come to fruition. Council is very keen to work with this group to provide relevant activities and services for our youth in Esperance.

We are in the early days for the Youth Advisory Council, and at their first meeting they will choose a chair to preside over their meetings. The Youth Advisory Council won't be thrown in the deep end though, Councillor McIntyre has been appointed as an ex-officio to help the group run meetings.

I believe the members of our Youth Advisory Council have taken a bold step towards becoming leaders in our community. Young people are the future of our town so it is important to connect with them and discuss the challenges and opportunities they see facing our town. We hope that the ideas from this group will help us with planning and ensure that our community continues to be a place where young people want to live, enabling our community to continue to grow and thrive. Working together, we can make our community an even more amazing place to live.

There will be more information to come once this inspiring group of young people meet up and start sharing their ideas. Stay tuned as this group gets cracking on projects to create a social environment for all ages and abilities where everyone feels welcome.