

MEDIA RELEASE

Shire of Esperance

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A FRENCH WEEKEND IN ESPERANCE

The Shire of Esperance and the Esperance Twin Towns Committee are celebrating Bastille Day, France's national holiday with a weekend of festivities.

On Friday 14 July, Bastille Day, we invite you to attend a French Film Night at the Bijou Theatre. "My Afternoons with Marguerite" (with subtitles) will be showing, starring Gerard Depardieu. It starts at 6:30pm, tickets are \$20 and include a glass of wine, cheese tasters and the French movie. Tickets are on sale at the Library or can be purchased at the door (cash sales only).

On Sunday 16 July head along to the Esperance Markets at the Museum Village from 8.30am to 12.30pm to enjoy market stalls with a French flair and sample some cheese. The Twin Towns Committee will have a stall celebrating our French connection, where you can find out more about our Twin Towns Committee and student exchange program. Early in the day cycle enthusiasts will compete in the annual Tour de Esperance hosted by the Esperance Cycling Club. Presentations for the prestigious event will take place at the Esperance Markets.

Shire President and Esperance Twin Towns Committee Chair Victoria Brown said, "Learning about different cultures is always enlightening. Our French connection provides us with an opportunity to delve into another culture and an excuse to drink French wine and eat exquisite cheese with a fresh baguette! Next year I expect will be a massive celebration as it will be the 30th anniversary since our Twin Town relationship commenced with the Ile de Ré region in France."

Additional Facts:

- Esperance's French connections date back to 1792 when French explorers made the first European landing on our beaches while sheltering from a storm.
- The French are credited with naming the town after the ship, L'Espérance, which is French for 'hope'.
- Esperance's relationship with the Ile de Ré region in France commenced with St Martin de Ré in 1988.
- For more information about the Shire of Esperance visit our website www.esperance.wa.gov.au and follow us on Facebook.

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