

## FROM THE COAST

### Active Community Members

As I write this the close of polls for the Local Government Elections are looming. I would like to thank the members of the Esperance community who have put their hand up to nominate for Council.

Councillors play a vital role in our Community as elected representatives. Being a Councillor is hard work, and involves attending meetings, a lot of research and making tough decisions, however it can be an extremely rewarding experience.

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for the countless time and energy they have put in during their terms. In particular, I'd like to recognise Cr Beverly Stewart JP who did not nominate to re-stand this term. She has been a Councillor for the Shire of Esperance for over 22 years, as well as representing Council on numerous committees and at events including Deputy Chair of Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (GVROC). I would like to acknowledge her dedication and wish her all the best in the future.

When we have elections we are also required to assess our Council Committees and decide whether they still serve their intended purpose or if they should be disbanded. Council Committees are vital in assisting Council to gather relevant information and relay community views on a variety of topics. We currently administer about a dozen committees from the Jetty Replacement Working Group, to the Twin Towns Committee, the Bush Fire Advisory Committee and the Esperance RoadWise Committee all representing diverse backgrounds. Thank you to the members of our community who have put their hand up to regularly attend committee meetings and represent our community.

Another example of community members getting involved in decision making is our newly formed Youth Advisory Council. As a Councillor you have the opportunity to attend a range of events in the community. As the year draws to a close Councillors will attend school graduations and watch the future leaders taking their first steps to be involved in our community.

There are many events throughout the year that Councillors attend including recognising Citizen of the Year Awards on Australia Day, ANZAC Day Parade and Police Remembrance Day to name a few. It is so important to acknowledge those who have served in our community or for our country. These are the people who keep our society together.

I'd like to recognise all newly formed Councils and wish them all the best in their future decision making.