



FROM THE COAST

Christmas and New Year in Esperance

What a year it's been for the Esperance community, and for the Shire. As we look forward to taking a break and spending valuable time with our families, let's take a look back at 2015 and the year that was.

Community engagement enables Council to make decisions on our community priorities. One of the biggest priorities is to find a suitable site for our new Waste Management Facility as the existing facility nears the end of its life. Disposing of our waste is something we take for granted but addressing our future waste management needs has been a high priority for Council and is being addressed with community input. The new Skate Park was designed with valuable input from a broad section of the community, and we look forward to seeing a wonderful community space for everyone to enjoy. The Esperance Town Centre Revitalisation Masterplan was endorsed, and we've seen the birth of a brand for Esperance that will help put us on the map!

2015 saw the Shire achieve some awards and commendations for our world class waterfront for its construction, design and preserving our heritage. We were also pleased to open a new all abilities playground on the waterfront that earned us another prestigious award. It is wonderful to see our waterfront providing incentive for vibrant events and activities and was the setting for many 2015 memories of residents and visitors alike.

The recent bushfires were a tragic twist of fate for our community, when instead of celebrating a bumper harvest we were suddenly faced with property losses, businesses destroyed and the most awful outcome of all, having to say goodbye to four community members. It became evident that we were not alone as support flooded in from within and well outside our community. Visits from the Prime Minister, the State Governor, the Lord Mayor, and many others showed us that although we may be geographically isolated, we have the support of people all across the nation.

We're looking forward to ending the year on a positive note. The Rotary Club of Esperance Bay's, Esperance New Years Eve Foreshore Festival and Fireworks will bring an opportunity to enjoy the fireworks and multiple fun activities with the whole family and will also allow everyone to decorate a star in recognition of one of our wonderful Esperance Volunteers. It will also be a fundraising opportunity for community groups. On behalf of Council and Shire Staff, I'd like to wish you and your family and friends a peaceful and blessed Christmas and best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2016.