



FROM THE COAST

Entertainment in Esperance

Esperance has a lot going for it including our beautiful beaches, national parks and great community. Our isolation and population has its challenges, one of which is attracting world class entertainment on a regular basis. However, Esperance never shies away from a challenge because challenges lead to growth!

This weekend showed how technology is bringing entertainment that would have been previously inaccessible to many people, to regional audiences across the state. WA Opera's performance of Puccini's last opera, Gianni Schicchi was simulcast live to the Esperance Civic Centre, enthralling opera lovers and providing a wonderful introduction to those who have never had the chance to experience it before.

If you've ever been to any large scale performance you'll know how difficult it can be to get close enough to the stage to see anything let alone some of the subtleties of actors. If you're lucky enough to fight your way through the crowds to the front, or pay through the nose for decent seats, there's usually still a head or two you have to try and peer over. The simulcasts give you the best seat in the house and are free, being fully funded by the Government of Western Australia and managed and operated by the Department of Regional Development. All without the ticket cost, flights and time off work.

The Esperance Civic Centre is a community based facility used for a huge variety of events, including private functions, concerts, music festivals, graduation ceremonies and many others. It is also a way the Shire is able to provide entertainment to the community. While the Civic Centre is available for touring shows as a hired venue, it is not always commercially viable. Through the Federal governments "Playing Australia" fund we are able to present shows that are touring regional Western Australia. The state government also supports touring through the "Shows On The Go" program (administered by Country Arts WA). Each year a touring menu is made available to venues like ours, community presenters and community arts groups to vote on which shows they would like to see tour. Once the votes are collated a sub-committee of the Country Arts WA board reviews the votes and decides on three shows to tour.

This year will see events like the classic UK band The Searchers, Fringe World Kids Spectacular, Spare Parts Puppet Theatre's Hachiko, a tribute to Bob Dylan and Neil Young and the Melbourne International Comedy Festival. New events are always being added so keep up to date by checking the Esperance Civic Centre website www.esperanceciviccentre.com.

Together with all the talented local thespians, musicians and artists, entertainment is just another reason to love or to visit Esperance!