



## FROM THE COAST

### Esperance Museum Celebrates

If you only visit museums when you are travelling or on holidays, you wouldn't be alone, but why wait until then? The Esperance Museum is asking locals and visitors to help celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and step inside to take in a bit of local history.

The Esperance Bay Historical Society (EBHS) do a wonderful job of managing the museum and they are organising a Dutch themed morning tea on Saturday November 12. As our state celebrates 400 years since the Dutch came to Australia in 1606 as the first European explorers, it is an appropriate theme as the Dutch were also the first Europeans to pass through Esperance waters in 1627.

Many of us are familiar with the French connections in Esperance, as the town was named by the French in 1792, so a temporary display of Esperance's Dutch history will be set up for the day, providing some information about the lesser known connections with the Dutch. Museum volunteers are also hoping to attract any Dutch treasures and artefacts from within the community.

The Esperance Museum was officially opened on October 9, 1976 and relies on a small group of dedicated volunteers to develop and maintain the Museum collection, which is a wide and varied collection of artefacts that make up Esperance history.

Skylab, a science and engineering laboratory, which was launched into Earth's orbit in 1973, remains a highlight for visitors to the museum. Many people remember when Skylab began its final orbits and on 12 July 1979 crossed the Indian Ocean heading towards Esperance, burning and breaking up as it sped along its fiery path. Over the following days, many pieces of Skylab debris, small and large, were found scattered over the Esperance townsite and farming areas. A number of these pieces can be seen at the Esperance Museum.

Esperance's maritime history is also honoured at the museum with various pieces of gear and a lifeboat from the Sanko Harvest, the wreck of which remains a diver's paradise and home to many varieties of fish. The Esperance Railway collection is another highlight of the museum and nod to our rich history.

There is so much to see at the Esperance Museum with collections relating to local history over the past 200 years. Celebrating the Museum's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 12 November is the perfect opportunity to come along and explore, as well as thank our wonderful volunteers for maintaining this important historical collection of local exhibits.