

FROM THE COAST

Festival of the Wind

Deputy Shire President Cr Natalie Bowman

Festival of the Wind hosted an incredible collection of events to enjoy with something for everyone. It makes me very proud to be a part of such a wonderful community that can put on an event like this. Congratulations to Samara and her dedicated committee for making this happen.

We saw projects come to life in the week leading up to the festival. Kevin Crawford created an amazing sand sculpture and hosted sand sculpting workshops. I particularly enjoyed watching a couple of young boys try their hand at sand sculpting on the beach, creating their own piece of art inspired by Kevin. Esti Nagy transformed a wall on Andrew Street in colours inspired by Esperance. She held artist talks throughout the weekend and since then I have heard many talking about all the other spaces around town we could transform.

The festival kicked off with the Mandaboornap Dreaming Puppet Project. The hand-crafted puppets told the Dreamtime story of the formation of Frenchmans Peak and a huge crowd enjoyed the show. It involved a wide group of the community, from performers, to puppet builders to spectators. Workshops were held in the January school holidays where members of the community helped build the puppets and it was exciting to see them come alive. From kite making, buskers, bustling markets and workshops, there was plenty to keep everyone busy. My personal favourite was Taste of Esperance where you could sample amazing food showcasing local Esperance produce.

Events like the Festival are important to the community, they help build relationships between different groups of people and provide something many people can enjoy, bringing a sense of belonging to the Esperance community whilst allowing people to learn about culture. Often events are a great way to celebrate old and new, we saw this with Memories of the Wind, and are a great way to attract visitors.

The Shire of Esperance is a proud sponsor of this event, supporting the 'Moving Movies' in the lead up to the festival, which will continue until April through a Support Community Grant which are open for applications all year round. The Shire also supported the Festival weekend through an Events Community Grant. Applications for the Assistance, Development and Events Community Grants are open now until 28 April 2017. Dare to dream, what could you plan for Esperance to enjoy. Grab a team and send in your application, let us help you make it a reality.