

SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

DOWNTOWN ESPRESSO



Meeting “downtown” has long been a phrase well-coined by the people of Esperance, but it got a whole new meaning with the opening of the Esperance Downtown espresso bar. The lovechild of Coffee Cat owners Grant and Nicola Sime, Downtown is a separate enterprise that takes the owner’s existing, well-researched love of coffee and reasserted itself in a brand new space alongside the Dempster Street Barber Shop.

While the Cat remains its reliably-fun seaside self, Downtown offers coffee lovers a few more serious options, with a bigger range of single origin beans, Kono pour-over, Aeropress and house-made cold brew to name a few. The Atlas designed space complements the adjoining barber shop with a kitsch, vintage aesthetic. Internal windows salvaged from the original Graylands Hospital provide a view into the barber while you drink your espresso at the local pink granite encrusted bar.

Sticking with Dukes Coffee Roasters, the espresso bar has taken on the Espresso Blend as its signature, with hints of red apple, caramel, milk chocolate and cherry. Non-coffee drinkers can get their hands on a range of Chamellia teas, wet leaf chai and all the latest lattes—matcha, beetroot and turmeric.

Apart from espresso, beverages are served in takeaway cups and the fare is kept simple, with cronuts, cheese and jalapeno pretzels, fresh croissants and the rest of your Coffee Cat favourites. With a revolving team roster, your favourite staff from the Coffee Cat family are also staying on the scene, and with recent visits from their suppliers, their skills have been finely tuned and updated.

Its safe to say that with the addition of this jewel to the community’s crown, meeting *at* Downtown is set to become another Esperance-ism to add to the vocab.