

John Castrilli MLA



Representing the people of Bunbury

Fostering pride in our environment

It was great to receive a visit from our State Environment Minister Donna Faragher last Friday to launch the 40th anniversary celebrations of the Tidy Towns – Sustainable Communities awards.

That launch was held at the City of Bunbury which was very fitting, considering we were the inaugural winner of the awards in 1969 and again in 1970.

It was great to be reminded of the history of this initiative and the immense impact it has had across hundreds of WA communities.

Quite remarkably, Tidy Towns – Sustainable Communities has managed to mobilise many thousands of people across Australia to play a more active part in cleaning up and taking pride in their local environment.

Nationally, it has involved about 90,000 volunteers, a contribution valued at more than \$150 million.

And one particular thought-provoking statement made at the ceremony which I would like to share was an extract from a 1969 edition of the Albany Advertiser. It stated; 'Let every man sweep his own doorstep and the whole world will be clean'.

I think we can all get something out of that simple statement and be inspired by the longevity of such a worthwhile initiative.

Community efforts continue

It is very pleasing report that a small group of community members are moving forward towards the implementation of a promising proposal to alleviate our doctor shortage in the long-term.

A steering committee was formed last week to progress a community-driven model, similar to one which has achieved outstanding results in Albury, Wodonga.

The forming of this committee follows a public meeting which I facilitated with Forrest MHR Nola Marino to hear all about this model from Dr Ron Jewell, of South West Gynaecology.

The model comprises many measures to lure doctors to our region and, most importantly, retain them when they get here.

A few of the measures include linking new or visiting doctors into a social network, assisting them to find suitable accommodation, supporting their spouses with employment opportunities and ensuring they have access and information about all the local schooling options for their children.

I wish the steering committee to the best of luck in moving this forward and congratulate them for taking this issue on at a community level. There is no doubt that we all stand to benefit from any accomplishments of this community-driven endeavour.

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