

John Castrilli MLA



Representing the people of Bunbury

A time of mixed emotions

Like many people in our community, I look forward to Christmas as a time of celebration, joy and catching up with family and friends.

But sadly for some families, the expectations, financial stress and alcohol involved with this time of year can bring underlying problems to the surface.

Holiday periods such as Christmas, New Year and Australia Day can exacerbate tensions within families which may lead to an increase in domestic violence.

However, there are a range of support services available, including special domestic violence phone lines.

The Men's Domestic Violence Helpline (1800 000 599) is a 24-hour anonymous telephone service staffed by trained professional men, who do not judge, but listen and provide options.

The Women's Domestic Violence Helpline (1800 007 339) is also staffed 24/7 by professionals who will support women to make safe decisions for themselves and their children, and help find a place to go if they need to leave an unsafe situation.

I urge anyone experiencing domestic violence, or who feels they are at risk, to make use of the range of support services available.

My greatest wish for Bunbury at this time of year is that we can all experience the peace and joy of Christmas, without it being marred by violence, anti-social behaviour or road accidents.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Christmas, a time when happy memories are created and friendship is shared.

Showcase of community talent

Carols by Candlelight was held on Sunday, which again showcased the wonderful community facility that is the Graham Bricknell Music Shell.

It also highlighted a fantastic array of local talent who I believe would hold their own on the world stage.

The choir and band were simply superb. My congratulations to Nicki Hair and Helen Brett for a fantastic job in musical direction. My thanks and congratulations also to Chairman Eddie Bricknell, director Leanne Risdon and designer Debbie Prentice, your efforts were amazing.

Carols by Candlelight continues to be a delight for local families and is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the true spirit of Christmas.

The success of this event in bringing people together is testament to the vision of Carols founder Graham Bricknell in "bringing music to the people".

We are truly lucky to be able to host events in the city which highlight our excellent facilities, diverse talents and strength of compassion in our community.