

John Castrilli MLA



Representing the people of Bunbury

Recognition for young achievers

One of the most rewarding aspects of my work is meeting and learning about young people who are doing great work in our community and achieving their goals.

While a minority of youths doing the wrong thing may grab the headlines occasionally, there are countless young people who make fantastic contributions to our community every day.

One such individual is Keaton Widmer, who at the age of 19 is a team leader at the Bunbury State Emergency Service unit and was recently honoured with the SES Youth Achievement Award.

Keaton's achievements follow his family's long involvement in the SES and show that it is possible to make a real difference at any age.

To honour positive contributions to the wider community, high schools across the State are now being encouraged to nominate students for the 2010 Positive Image Award.

Information and nomination forms have been sent to schools and I expect there will be many students nominated from the local area.

Congratulations to students

We are now in the midst of preparations for school graduations which is a wonderful, if a little hectic, time of year for students, parents and teachers.

I always try to attend as many of the graduation ceremonies as possible, and am reminded what an exciting time this is – whether for Year 7s preparing to enter high school, or Year 12s about to embark on the next phase of their lives.

Attending these events is also a refreshing reminder of the potential of young people to shape the future of our community.

Congratulations to all Year 7s and Year 12s who are about to graduate, and I look forward to seeing many of you at your school ceremonies.

Speak out against violence

Today is White Ribbon Day and I urge people to show their support for this important cause.

What began in 1991 as a small group of Canadian men wearing ribbons in memory of 14 women killed by a gunman has become an international display of support.

Eliminating violence against women requires a cultural and social change, centring on respect and a willingness to speak out if violence does occur.

More than 300,000 ribbons are worn by Australians each year on White Ribbon Day and I encourage everyone to be part of this vital campaign to help create a society where women are not subjected to violence or abuse.