

# John Castrilli MLA



## Representing the people of Bunbury

### Historic event for community

The sitting of Regional Cabinet and Parliament in Bunbury last week was an historic occasion and a memorable event for many people in the community.

A major benefit was that the focus of every minister was on Bunbury.

Not only did the week give people the chance to raise concerns face-to-face with relevant Government ministers, it also was a significant educational opportunity.

More than 1000 people including students, teachers and the general public took part in educational programs in the marquee outside the Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre and watched Parliament in action on Tuesday and Wednesday.

On Thursday almost 60 students were involved in the Student Parliament, where they debated issues and asked questions relevant to their peers.

The value of an educational experience such as this can't be measured in dollar terms yet it enriches our community and allows people a first-hand view of how our democracy works.

Many significant announcements were also made last week including:

- \$3.5m brought forward for the demolition/restoration project on the Bunbury Timber Jetty, to be matched by funds from the City of Bunbury
- Funding to monitor Bunbury's CCTV network during peak periods
- The rollout of handheld mobile data devices called TADISLite to police officers, to help in the fight against crime
- \$700,000 to buy land on which the MS Society will build, equip and operate a facility for young people with acquired brain injuries or MS and other degenerative neurological conditions
- Extra funds for the InTown Centre and Shoestring Cafe to continue providing low-cost meals

The hosting of the regional sitting of Cabinet and Parliament was an enormous undertaking for Bunbury and I thank everyone involved who helped make the week a successful and worthwhile event for the local community.

### Age no barrier

This week is Seniors Week and I would like to pay tribute to all the seniors who make valuable contributions, no matter how large or small, to our community.

Janice Crosby and Fay Busquets are two such people, who founded the Bunbury Seniors Computer Club, which is helping older residents get "tech savvy".

Another senior doing wonderful work in our community is Joyce McGinn, the District Commissioner of Forrest Scouts.

Her tireless efforts to upgrade the Carey Park Scout Hall were marked with a function last week to thank the many tradespeople and suppliers who donated to the project.

Joyce did an astounding amount of hands-on work on the hall in addition to coordinating the project and sourcing donations – a huge task in itself.

She is truly an inspiration to people of all ages and a wonderful role model.

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