

John Castrilli MLA



Representing the people of Bunbury

Chance to speak to Government Ministers

By now most Bunbury people will have received, via local newspapers, their invitation to meet with Cabinet Ministers when Parliament sits in Bunbury in October.

This is an excellent opportunity for people to be able to discuss issues of concern with relevant Ministers.

Demand is expected to be high and while not all requests for meetings will be able to be met, I encourage those with a genuine query to fill out the application form to participate in this worthwhile exchange of information.

New initiative for education

The recent announcement by Premier Colin Barnett and Education Minister Liz Constable on changes to educational decision-making is expected to have wide-ranging benefits.

Public schools are now able to apply for independent status, which heralds a significant change by allowing schools to make decisions which best suit their students and local needs.

Up to 30 WA schools will begin to operate as Independent Public Schools from 2010, with the initiative allowing principals and senior staff more flexibility in the day-to-day running of their schools.

Schools which nominate to become an IPS would be freed of excessive red tape, while still being able to retain the benefits of the public school system.

Daffodil Day

On Friday it was once again my pleasure to be able to help out at the annual Daffodil Day stall at Centrepont, while my staff Leanne and Yasmin, joined the colourful procession down Stirling and Victoria streets to help collect funds. Officers from Bunbury Police also lent their support to this very worthy cause, providing a police escort and with one even donning a yellow wig and collecting donations from passing vehicles. Although the colourful collectors did cause a few traffic delays, I am sure everyone at the Cancer Council will appreciate the many hundreds of dollars raised from generous motorists, people on the streets and businesses who gave freely. Thank you to all involved for helping support essential research and hope for a brighter, cancer-free future.

Op-Shop Ball

I was deeply saddened and shocked to learn of the recent passing of James Oliver, a dedicated volunteer and widely respected member of our community. James was an integral part of the Op-Shop Ball Committee and the South West Fund Raisers Group. This year's Op-Shop Ball will be held on Saturday and like previous years events, is already a sell out. The Ball is a fantastic event for our community, not only raising essential funds towards Palliative Care, but also providing a low cost and highly entertaining event in our community. I am sure everyone in attendance will feel the void created by James' passing, but also remember his enormous contributions to the event. My sincere sympathy to James' wife Heather and his daughters.

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