

John Castrilli MLA



Representing the people of Bunbury

Services pay tribute

Bunbury's 95th anniversary Anzac Day services on Sunday were an important chance to pause and reflect on the enormous efforts of those Australians engaged in past and current military service.

My thanks go to Bunbury RSL branch president Trevor Kenny and members for once again organising such moving tributes to the service men and women who have given so much in defence of our country, and in peacekeeping efforts overseas.

While the number of veterans able to attend diminishes over the years, I am heartened to see the size of the events growing as younger generations learn about our Anzac history and become involved.

I would also like to pay tribute to Sunday's guest of honour Reg Loudon, whose strong spirit is evident in the fact he still works in his own business at the age of 96.

We are indeed fortunate that our community has been able to keep alive such a strong tradition of commemorating our history and seeing it maintained thanks to the passion of people from all generations.

I also wish to acknowledge the role our local schools play in honouring the Anzacs. Last Friday I attended Newton Moore Senior High School's service, which is organised by the students and is always a heartfelt and moving ceremony.

The spirit and respect shown on Anzac Day makes me proud to be an Australian and a member of our wonderful Bunbury community.

Graduation a credit to all

Recently I attended the graduation ceremony and street parade for Edith Cowan University.

The street parade to acknowledge academic achievement has become an integral part of the event and draws together members of the wider community as well as students and their supporters.

The procession which made its way down Victoria Street was a well-earned celebration of several years of academic effort by more than 200 students.

It also highlighted the important role that ECU plays in our local community, not only in educating students but also in employing staff and adding to the social fabric of the city.

The ceremony was a memorable occasion for students as well as their family, friends, and lecturers, and a reminder that everyone has a part to play in supporting students.

Events such as these add to the vibrancy of our community, and my congratulations go to all graduates, ECU Dean Robert Irvine and staff, as well as the Bunbury City Band for leading the parade.