

# John Castrilli MLA



## Representing the people of Bunbury

### Congratulations to students

The past two weeks have been a hive of activity and I have had the pleasure of attending many of our local primary school graduation ceremonies.

I always enjoy visiting schools and seeing students reflect on what is important to them.

While many aspects of our society are changing, it is heartening to see young people talking about what matters to them – the importance of friends, family support, and their enjoyment of sporting and social activities.

I was impressed by the positive attitudes displayed by the graduating Year 7s as they celebrated the end of one school chapter and the start of another.

They are truly the future of our local community and I hope they are able to continue with their positive outlook as they face the new challenges of high school.

Congratulations to all our local Year 7s, and thanks to all the teachers, school support staff and helpers for organising such wonderful tributes to the efforts of our younger community members.

### Carols a highlight of year

Sunday's Carols by Candlelight was a wonderful celebration of the true meaning of Christmas as our community gathered to share the joy of the season.

The performances were truly outstanding and a credit to the wealth of local talent in our region.

It is wonderful also to see our young stars who are developing their talents further afield, returning home for Christmas and having such obvious pleasure in performing for 'their community'.

My heartfelt thanks go to the Carols by Candlelight Committee for their untiring efforts and unquestionable skills.

I think everyone who attended could have been forgiven for thinking they had been transported to the Melbourne Music Bowl, such was the level of professionalism in the production, the performances and of course, our wonderful Music Shell.

I cannot help but imagine that Bunbury's Man of Music, the late Graham Bricknell, would have been so very pleased to see such an event being enjoyed by so many.

### Best wishes to community

At this time of year it is important to reflect on the importance of our family, friends and community.

I would like to thank the countless volunteers and support networks, both formal and informal, within our community who work to make Bunbury a better place all year round.

Extending the hand of friendship and support can make such a huge difference in people's lives, and at this time of year, a smile and hello can really make a difference, especially to someone who is feeling stressed or lonely. I wish everyone a safe and joyous Christmas and a New Year filled with good health and happiness.