

John Castrilli MLA



Representing the people of Bunbury

A wonderful community asset

On Saturday it was my privilege to be able to take part in the official opening of the new TS Bunbury Navy Cadets building.

This facility, on Bunbury Port Authority land at Turkey Point, is testament to the great results that can be achieved by a dedicated band of volunteers and the support of Government, local businesses, tradespeople and suppliers.

The project was funded with a \$350,000 State Government grant, delivered as an election promise for Bunbury, along with funding from the previous Federal government and donations and assistance from local businesses.

The story of the new TS Bunbury headquarters dates back to August 2004, when the previous building at the Outer Harbour was hit by a tornado which swept through the area.

The unit moved to temporary premises at the old Bunbury power station, but needed a purpose-built facility.

Despite the headaches along the way, it seems the new headquarters have been worth the wait, offering a custom-designed base which not only offers training for local cadets, but also caters for camps with up to 100 people from other units across WA.

The new facility has already been touted as the best in Australia, and hopefully will encourage greater numbers to join the unit and learn a range of lifelong skills.

I congratulate everyone involved in this project which will offer benefits to our community for many years to come.

National pride on display

Although Australia Day is still a week away, I have already seen many cars bearing Australian flags driving through the streets in a proud show of patriotism.

Some see Australia Day simply as a celebration and a public holiday, but it is also a time to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land, our pioneering settlers and the diverse range of cultures in our national "melting pot".

We are indeed fortunate to live in such a wonderful country, but I believe we all have a responsibility to help keep it that way.

We can all do our bit, whether it's volunteering, showing respect for others and our environment, or helping our neighbours.

Whether it is in a big or small way, we all play a part in what makes our local community, and our nation, special.

Regardless of how you choose to spend your time on January 26, I urge you to take a moment to consider what being Australian means to you.