

John Castrilli MLA



Representing the people of Bunbury

Funding boost for community events

I am delighted that a range of community groups in Bunbury have received a funding boost from the State Government's 2010 South West Events Program.

Bunbury certainly looks set for an exciting calendar of events, with groups involved in the arts, sport and community services all benefiting from grants to help host and coordinate events including festivals, exhibitions, concerts and sporting carnivals.

The Bunbury Multicultural Group has received \$3000 towards the Multicultural Night Under the Stars, which celebrates the diverse cultures in our region with an evening of food, dance, music and entertainment.

The South West Opera Company received \$3000 towards its production of Die Fledermaus. The Opera Company is a wonderful exponent of local talent of all ages, evidenced by recent productions such as Oliver.

The Stirling Street Arts Centre will benefit from \$2000 towards its Fire, Fibre & Fine Arts exhibition Elements. The centre is a wonderful, long-standing part of Bunbury's arts landscape, offering not only a wide range of activities but also a much-loved social gathering point for its members.

The South West Wind and Jazz Orchestra is another group which encompasses members from all walks of life with a common passion. The orchestra has received \$1600 towards the annual Queen's Cup Band Competition, a prestigious contest which showcases talent from across the region.

In the sporting arena, the Bunbury and Districts Hockey Association was granted \$2500 towards the Australian National Veterans Hockey Championships.

The pro-active approach of hockey members is a credit to the association, as are the club's facilities which enable it to host national and international matches.

Milligan House will benefit from a \$2000 boost for the 21st Annual Teddy Bears Picnic and Spring Fair, a wonderful event for younger residents and their families.

These and other events are a vital part of the social fabric of our local community, enriching it in so many different ways.

Not only do they offer exciting dates on the calendar for local residents and visitors, the process of organising and hosting such events strengthens community bonds, drawing people together and helping forge strong friendships and networks.

The volunteers involved do an amazing job of organising a diverse range of events to cater to different tastes in our community.

I congratulate everyone involved and wish you all the best with your activities for the year.