

John Castrilli MLA



Representing the people of Bunbury

Fundraiser sets great example

I recently attended the Chefs' Long Table Lunch which is a wonderful example of how fundraisers can grow in popularity to become stand-alone events.

Many community groups and sporting organisations in Bunbury rely on fundraisers to provide extra cash for projects.

The Chefs' Long Table Lunch was the brainchild of Leonie Kershaw, and since its inception in 2004, the organisers have thought outside the square in terms of creating an iconic event which stands on its own as a wonderful afternoon of entertainment, sampling some of the region's finest produce.

This year's beneficiaries, Milligan House and the City of Bunbury Surf Life Saving Club, do an enormous amount of work to make life better for people of all ages in our community.

The organisation of the Lunch itself is a great example of community cooperation, with more than 70 volunteers helping ensure the day is a success in terms of catering, entertainment and the auction of unique items.

I congratulate everyone involved and wish them all the best for the continued success of the event.

Beach wheelchairs aid access

Living in Bunbury, many of us take it for granted that everyone can enjoy an afternoon at the beach, splashing around and feeling the sand between our toes.

But for people with physical disabilities, it was often difficult, undignified or impossible – until now.

On Friday I was honoured to officially launch two new beach wheelchairs which will be available for use, free of charge, to the Bunbury community and visitors.

The "Beach Trekker v 2" wheelchairs are specially designed to be used on beach terrain and in the water with a carer, and will greatly enhance the quality of life for people with disabilities.

I deal with an enormous range of people through my work and it always impresses me how people with what we term "disabilities" make the most of all their other strengths and talents.

We are extremely lucky in Bunbury to be part of a community where people strive to include others and make life a little easier and more enjoyable for people of all abilities.

The South West Development Commission's foresight in bringing these beach wheelchairs to Bunbury, supported by a range of other organisations and individuals, is a great example of a true team effort.

Everyone involved in this project should feel justifiably proud of helping make Bunbury's community facilities more accessible for people of all abilities.