

John Castrilli MLA



Representing the people of Bunbury

Raising awareness and funds

The passion and goodwill of the Bunbury community were particularly evident last week thanks to several events which are raising money for cancer-related causes.

The annual Daffodil Day fundraiser was a success yet again and a Light the Night fundraiser for leukaemia was launched.

I was particularly pleased to assist with the Daffodil Day fundraiser and witness the generosity of local people who visited the stall in Centrepont.

Furthermore, this year provided the opportunity for our community to recognise the incredible efforts of our Cancer Council regional education officer Wendy Maslin.

Wendy is retiring after 16 years serving our community, during which she achieved remarkable results by going above and beyond the call of duty.

On behalf of our community, I thank and congratulate Wendy for her invaluable contributions.

This significant event was complemented by last week's launch of the second-annual Light the Night Walk for the Leukaemia Foundation.

This leisurely and symbolic walk will be held in Bunbury for the second time on Wednesday, September 22.

It involves carrying illuminated balloons - white for survivors, blue for supporters and gold in memory of loved ones lost to cancer.

In addition to this symbolic fundraiser, two other events remain for this year which I encourage you to support.

Relay for Life will be held again this year at Hands Oval on November 6 and 7 while South West Bike Week will raise money for the Balya Cancer Retreat from November 22 to 28.

Our local community can pride itself on the knowledge that more often than not, people will happily spare a moment to support a cause, volunteer to help or simply offer an ear to listen to a neighbour or friend facing tough times.

My thanks and congratulations go to everyone involved with organising and supporting these events.

Strategies aid community safety

Recent media reports have highlighted that increased CCTV cameras and a stronger police presence in Bunbury's central "hotspots" has led to a reduction in crime, with people feeling safer going about their business or leisure activities.

Figures from WA Police show that for the City of Bunbury, reported assaults dropped from 23 in July 2009 to 11 in June 2010.

And while statistics can be a useful indicator, the general feeling in the community is also an important way to gauge whether people feel safe.

I commend the Bunbury Police Station on its efforts in rostering staff to effectively target areas known for violence or antisocial behaviour.

Our police officers do a difficult and often thankless job, and it is heartening to know that people in the community have felt the effects of the increased police presence, along with the expanded CCTV system, and feel safer on our city's streets.