

John Castrilli MLA



Long weekend a time of reflection

Many people in our community will have enjoyed some time off to relax over the five-day Easter and Anzac Day break.

However there are some for whom this time of year means a busy period at work, especially hospital staff, police, ambulance officers and other on-call workers, and I commend them for their efforts.

Personally, Easter offered a time for contemplation and a good opportunity to spend time with loved ones.

I was also pleased to be able to again attend Bunbury's Anzac Day service, which continues to be a credit to the local RSL.

I congratulate all involved in organising such moving tributes to the service men and women who have given so much in defence of our country, and in peacekeeping efforts.

Recent overseas conflicts have served as a strong reminder of how lucky we are to live in a democratic country.

As well as honouring the memories of our Diggers, the Anzac services and school events help our younger generations learn about the nature of past conflicts.

We should also hold in our thoughts our defence personnel who are currently actively serving in military operations or undertaking peacekeeping roles throughout the world.

I hope people were able to spend some time reflecting on the importance of Anzac Day in honouring contributions made by past and present members of our defence forces.

Funding boost for road safety

The State Government's decision to boost the allocation of speed camera revenue to the Road Trauma Trust Fund is a lifesaving investment in our community.

We have a tragic history of road crashes in the South West and I welcome any measure aimed at curbing injuries and the loss of lives in the future.

The State Government currently invests about \$280million annually towards road safety across various agencies, including police enforcement, road building and maintenance, community education campaigns and school-based programs.

Currently, the Road Trauma Trust Fund receives one-third of revenue from speed and red light camera infringements, equating to about \$13million per year.

This will soon be doubled, and after July 1, 2012 all funding from speed and red light cameras will go straight into the road trauma fund to enable the Government to strengthen our efforts in minimising the road toll.

However funding is only part of the issue and I urge all motorists to drive safely and according to local conditions and weather, whatever the time of year.