

John Castrilli MLA



Support Groups

While Governments work to provide facilities and services for the many needs of a community, a vital component of holistic care comes in the form of Support Groups.

These groups can be just as important as the bricks and mortar of a facility and provide information, advocacy and the opportunity to share their burden or joys with others who understand what they are dealing with. Bunbury is very fortunate to have a strong web of Support Groups within our community and I would encourage people to seek out a group appropriate to their individual needs.

One such group is the Bunbury Parkinson's Association Support Group which meets monthly at Milligan House. Monday was a special occasion for the group which celebrated the 23rd Anniversary of the Parkinson's Association and also farewelled their hard working President Lorraine Flanegen. My sincere thanks to Lorraine for her great leadership and support that she has offered within the group over the past years, and my best wishes go with her and Bob as they embark on the next phase of their life journey.

Funds available to protect natural resources

The latest round of grants for Natural Resource Management has opened, offering funding to help protect environmental assets in our local area.

The State Government's NRM Program Community Grants will make a total of \$3 million available across WA to fund projects which help preserve threatened flora and fauna, marine and coastal environments, and stop the spread of pests and diseases.

Groups who can apply for funding include community groups, not-for profit organisations, local government authorities and educational institutions. Individuals are not eligible to apply.

Projects already funded in the South West in the previous NRM grant round include weed control, fox and rabbit control, revegetation and water catchment protection.

We are fortunate to have many community groups literally working at ground level to protect natural resources in our local area and these grants aim to help the good work continue.

More information is available from the State NRM Office on 9368 3168, online at www.nrm.wa.gov.au or from my office.

Census

Our office has received a number of calls from people with various concerns over the recent Census. People can be reassured that the collectors have until the 28th August to pick up completed forms. If you require any further information, the direct Census line is 1300 338 776.