

John Castrilli MLA



Thanks to cancer support workers

On Friday I will be attending the retirement function of two very dedicated people from the Cancer Council South West Support Centre, Val Tuffin and Lynne King.

Lynne and Val started a cancer support group in 1995 after realising the need for it in the region, and it has since expanded to its current location in Plaza Street.

With cancer touching the lives of so many people, the need for strong support networks has become greater than ever. The centre's work in providing resources, support and information for patients and their families cannot be underestimated, offering assistance at a time when people are at their most vulnerable.

I commend Val and Lynne on more than 15 years of tireless work and offer my very best wishes to them both for an enjoyable retirement.

However, I am sure they will both be keeping busy with various activities and I am certainly looking forward to handing out daffodils with Val on August 26 for Daffodil Day.

Regional awards open

We are fortunate in Bunbury to have a wide range of local initiatives, community projects and individuals who are working to make a real difference to our region.

For this reason, I urge people to consider nominating a local business, community group or individual for the Regional Achievement and Community Awards which are now open.

There are several awards in categories including:

- Business Enterprise
- Teaching Excellence
- Sustainability and Environment
- Indigenous Service
- Community Groups
- Volunteering
- Local Government Best Practice
- Leadership and Innovation

More information is available from my office or online at www.awardsaustralia.com/RACA_wa.html

Land-swap offer a positive step

Readers would be forgiven if they are confused about the situation surrounding the College Grove land-swap offer.

Unfortunately the important news of the offer has been clouded by misinformation and several misleading statements which have not been properly clarified.

The announcement of the land-swap offer by the State Government to the City of Bunbury was an important and positive milestone as it marked the culmination of more than two years of negotiation on the issue.

Balancing the protection of this environmentally-sensitive bushland with the needs of the partners in the College Grove subdivision joint venture – the City of Bunbury, Landcorp and Department of Lands – has been a very complex process.

I am confident that we are close to negotiating an outcome which will satisfy all parties involved, and preserve an important part of our natural environment.