

# John Castrilli MLA



## Community strength on show

On Friday I was pleased to be involved with two events which reminded me of the strength, diversity and caring nature within our local community.

The first was the launch of local author Peter O'Shaughnessy's book "Laporte: A history of the Australind titanium dioxide project."

Peter spent his working life at the facility, now known as Cristal Global, and had a keen interest in documenting its history and the recollections of its staff.

Peter's work on the book was put on hold when his wife Deeny faced a battle with cancer, which ultimately claimed her life.

However, when he eventually finished the manuscript, Peter dedicated "Laporte" to the staff and volunteers of the Cancer Council's Bunbury office, who supported Deeny throughout her battle.

I urge anyone interested in learning more about our local history to purchase a copy of the book, with all the proceeds going to an excellent cause in the Cancer Council.

## Garden's success grows

Later on Friday, I was delighted to present a Lotterywest cheque for \$41,416 to Thommo's Community Garden.

The garden was established in honour of Colin Thomson, a long-serving City of Bunbury employee who began the project just a few months before his death in February 2009.

It has since grown to include around 70 members and is another wonderful example of a group which is helping keep the fabric of our community strong.

It not only offers space for seniors to grow fresh produce while enjoying healthy exercise, it also provides an important social gathering point.

Disability services provider Enable South West has also recently become involved in the garden which will further strengthen the interactions between members of our community.

The Lotterywest funding will allow the garden committee to buy a small tractor and other equipment to help increase the number of garden beds available as TCG grows in popularity.

## Seniors Awards now open

Do you know an inspirational local senior? If so, I urge you to nominate them for the WA Seniors Awards 2011.

The awards recognise seniors across the State who are helping make their communities stronger and more inclusive, as well as the work of people who aim to improve the lives of seniors.

Last year I nominated local cyclist, cancer survivor and all-round inspiration, Brian Kennedy, for the awards, and was delighted when he not only won his category, but was also named the WA Senior of the Year 2010.

Importantly, the recognition enabled Brian to continue the excellent work that he does in promoting a healthy lifestyle, mentoring young athletes and assisting those with a cancer diagnosis to face their own set of challenges.

For more information go to [www.communities.wa.gov.au/seniors](http://www.communities.wa.gov.au/seniors) or call my office on 9791 3636.