

John Castrilli MLA



Support for breast cancer survivors

With so many members of our community touched by cancer, anything which can be done to support people in the aftermath of a diagnosis is welcome.

Last week the State Government announced a 3-year commitment to fund a new program in Perth and regional areas to aid the recovery of women who have had breast cancer surgery.

I am extremely pleased that Bunbury has been chosen as one of three regional locations to run the Encore program, which has been providing an important service for women across Australia for the past 25 years.

The program runs over eight weeks with participants attending weekly sessions made up of gentle exercises, relaxation techniques and information.

The program helps women regain mobility, strength, flexibility and confidence following surgery, as well as giving them the opportunity to talk with others and share support which is invaluable.

Participation will be free to any woman who has undergone breast cancer surgery, regardless of how long ago it was.

Funding boost for boat facilities

Recreational boating is a big part of many people's lives in Bunbury but our facilities have recently struggled to keep up with our growing population.

A major funding boost under the State Government's Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme will go a long way towards changing this.

As part of \$2million in funding for the South West, more than \$370,000 will be spent in Bunbury on, improved facilities and planning for future boating needs.

The projects include:

- \$93,000 to extend the Marabank Loop and Stirling Street ramps
- \$142,500 for a new Stirling Street finger jetty
- \$5,700 for Casuarina Boat Harbour mooring
- \$45,000 for a boating facilities study for the Leschenault Estuary and Collie River

In addition \$120,000 will also be spent on building a toilet block at the Casuarina Harbour boat ramp, with \$90,000 from a pre-existing RBFS allocation.

Science careers in focus

On Friday I was pleased to attend the official launch at Bunbury Catholic College of the Scitech roadshow, which helps high school students learn more about careers in science, technology, engineering and maths.

While the need for professionals in these fields is growing, the number of students studying these disciplines at university is actually decreasing.

By showcasing the diverse and exciting career opportunities available, hopefully many of our local students will go on to not only study science, but also to return to Bunbury and the South West and bring their expertise with them.

I was very pleased to see representatives from several local organisations explaining their jobs to students, as they are living proof that great science careers are on offer locally.