

John Castrilli MLA



Rally 4 Respect a great success

Last week's Rally 4 Respect was a wonderful celebration of community spirit and the capacity for people-power to make positive changes.

The Rally was created to celebrate the many positive impacts which Choose Respect has already had in Bunbury, and to encourage the wider community to embrace the initiative and help create a better future.

Many people worry about declining social standards and negative behaviour, but the good news is that every single one of us has the power to make a difference.

I was thrilled to see so many people attend the Rally, despite the wet and windy weather, with more than 400 people of all ages gathering at Anzac Park.

School students, parents and toddlers, community organisations, and older residents were all out in force and there was a cheerful atmosphere with colourful banners, balloons and painted faces.

My congratulations go to Sarah-Jane Smith and the Bunbury Choose Respect Management Team, chaired by Peter Rigden, for their huge efforts in organising the Rally.

I also would like to say thank you to every person who attended, and to local police and rangers who assisted with traffic management.

I was especially heartened to see, at the end of the event, one young boy walking around picking up rubbish.

The Choose Respect message of respecting yourself, other people and our surroundings, is certainly making a difference in our community and I hope we see it continue.

Sporting support for kids

For thousands of local young people, sport is a wonderful part of their childhood and social lives.

However for some families, it is a struggle to pay club membership fees and sadly some children miss out on being part of sporting groups.

Therefore I am very pleased that a new \$10 million State Government initiative will help children from financially-disadvantaged families to join sporting clubs.

The Kidsport program will allow 30,000 eligible children aged 5 to 18 to have sports club membership fees paid.

Up to \$200 is available annually and there is no limit on the number of children assisted in each family.

The main aim of KidSport is to ensure all WA children can participate in sport and recreation clubs.

It will also help get children and their families more involved in the community, which can have a range of flow-on benefits.

I encourage families in Bunbury who may be eligible for assistance under the KidSport initiative to apply.

More information is available online at www.clubsonline.dsr.wa.gov.au/kidsport or from my office on 9791 3636.