

John Castrilli MLA



Australia Day a time to reflect

Many local people are already gearing up for a day of celebration on Australia Day.

However more than being just a public holiday, it is also a time to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land, our pioneering settlers and the diverse range of cultures present in Australia today.

We are fortunate to live in such a wonderful country and I believe we all have a responsibility to help keep it that way.

We can all do our bit, whether it's volunteering in the community, showing respect for others and our environment, or helping our neighbours.

We all play a part in what makes our local community, and our nation, so special.

Regardless of how you choose to spend your time on January 26, I encourage you to take a moment to consider what being Australian means to you.

Reconciliation projects

Promoting reconciliation and cultural harmony is an important part of helping build stronger communities within our regions.

Funding is now available for projects which celebrate our unique indigenous culture and help to strengthen the bonds between all members of our community.

Reconciliation Sponsorship Scheme grants of up to \$3000 are aimed at small, community-based initiatives driven by local people.

Projects must demonstrate active engagement and participation with the local Aboriginal community and wider community and increase cultural awareness.

More information and application forms are available from my office on 9791 3636 or at www.dia.wa.gov.au/en/Reconciliation

Applications close on January 31.

Youth award nominations open

Nominations are now open for the 2012 WA Youth Awards and I would encourage people to consider nominating an outstanding local young person or youth worker for the awards.

We have many people in our community who quietly go about making it a better place, and nominating a young person or a youth worker is a great way to recognise their strengths, abilities and achievements.

The awards will celebrate the contributions of people aged 12 to 25, along with youth-led groups, organisations and youth workers.

There are eight categories including sections to recognise young people making a difference in areas including arts, the environment, and community development.

Nomination forms are available at www.communities.wa.gov.au/youth or from my office at 4B Spencer Street and close on Friday, February 24.