

John Castrilli MLA



Representing the people of Bunbury

Silent heroes spark Christmas spirit

I assume, only the most organised members of our community will be reading this column today. Among you will be those who started their Christmas shopping months ago while most of us were still recovering from Easter.

If that's you, congratulations. And if it's not, don't worry, go get yourself a coffee and take a well-earned break from the hectic shopping, cooking and wrapping.

Have a flick through this newspaper and focus on all the good in our community at this time of year. There may be some gloom but be sure not to forget how lucky we are to live in such a vibrant and compassionate community.

I take this opportunity to focus on the festive spirit which has engulfed this city in recent weeks and send my gratitude to those who go above and beyond to make it so.

There are many people in our community who sacrifice their time to foster the Christmas spirit for others.

They are the volunteers at our local charities and churches who pack hampers and wrap toys for families less fortunate. They are the people who visit hospital or nursing home patients on Christmas Day to ease any feelings of loneliness.

In my mind, these people are the true heroes of our community and as we give thanks for all we have this Christmas – it is important to keep them in the forefront of our minds.

I saw many such 'heroes' at the City of Bunbury's successful Carols by Candlelight concert on Sunday evening at the Graham Bricknell Memorial Music Shell.

It was again a magical evening and one I'm sure would have brought a smile to the face of the late Graham Bricknell, the founder of the event.

It is great to see that his family is carrying on this tradition, with son Eddie remaining as chairman of the committee.

I congratulate Eddie, the committee, the performers and the mass of volunteers for again making this night so special.

However I also wish to recognise Leanne Risdon in her own right. Leanne is the long-time producer of this concert and the outstanding results speak for themselves.

To our community, Carols By Candlelight is more than a concert, it's the perfect showcase of how cohesive our community is and what we have to be thankful for this year.

www.johncastrilli.com.au

Ph: 97913636 Fax: 97913313