



Yarragadee - People power needed to protect our future



Protestors opposing the Yarragadee Project outside of the Bunbury Council Chambers during the recent State Cabinet Meeting.

Strong momentum continues to build from people in the South West opposed to the State Government's bid to extract 45 gegalitres from the Yarragadee aquifer. A diverse range of people are now understanding that the Yarragadee is the South West's lifeblood, and our collective future should not be jeopardised.

It is not good enough for the Government to only take into consideration reports paid for by Watercorp and ignore the many other damning reports from scientists, who are deeply concerned about the effects on the environment and the sustainability of the South West.

There has been much said in scientific terms on this project which can be confusing for people, but the bottom line is, this project must not commence until an

independent study from an organisation, such as the CSRIO, is undertaken.

It is heartening to know concerned people in other parts of Western Australia share and support the views of South West residents. Recent surveys indicate the public largely supports desalination, a pipeline from the Kimberley, Wellington Dam utilisation and recycling over any proposals to interfere with the Yarragadee.

There are numerous petitions in circulation at present and a rally has been organised by the Friends of Yarragadee to be held on the steps of Parliament House in Perth on Tuesday March 27th at 1pm. Buses will leave Bunbury at 7.30 am and 9.30 am at a cost of \$25 per head. For more information about the rally please call organiser Sherry Thomas on 9721 8924.

A message from John Castrilli

It has been great to be able to spend so much time in my electorate over the past ten weeks while Parliament was in recess.

Bunbury is an extremely busy electorate with people requiring assistance in a wide variety of areas. Of particular concern to many are those issues relating to affordable housing, health, community safety and family court.

In the first two years of my office term, I have had over 450 people seek assistance that has required some form of action or advocacy on their behalf. In addition I have received thousands of inquiries that have been able to be quickly resolved by telephone. While there are many large issues that need my representation in Parliament, often it is these individual and sometimes very personal issues that call for a lot of support.

Bunbury has seen unprecedented growth and for many years now, even in my previous role as Mayor, I have been calling for long term strategic planning to identify the infrastructure requirements we will need to sustain this growth, both now and in the future. We are already seeing pressure on our health system, our transport system is struggling and housing availability is at an all time low. There is much work to be done.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Miss Mabel "Blue" Thomson for celebrating her 100th birthday recently. Loretta and I were delighted to be able to join Miss Thomson and her family and friends to honour this special occasion.

Daylight Saving Reminder

A timely reminder to all that the final date for the current Daylight Saving trial is Sunday, March 25, 2007, with clocks required to be turned back an hour from 2.00 am that morning.

Numerous callers, both by phone and in person, say the experiment has failed for them, and they simply do not want to see Daylight Saving imposed next summer.

The manner in which this proposal was introduced into Parliament was quite disgraceful. Having resoundingly voted

against the introduction of Daylight Saving in Western Australia three times previously, the people have been forced once again to endure further trials without being asked.

A motion has been introduced in Parliament for the referendum to be held immediately following this trial period and not in three years time. Anyone who wants to protest about daylight saving can sign a petition at my Electorate Office, or a copy of the petition can be mailed, or faxed, to prospective petitioners.

Community Meetings

I am continuing to hold Community Morning Tea's throughout the suburbs as a way of making myself available to as many people as possible. Last month I met with the residents of East Bunbury in what was a well attended and lively gathering. The issues raised were once again varied, many of them related to the lack of pedestrian crossings on busy roads, hoons and anti-social behaviour. The Police and Ranger Services of the City of Bunbury are to be congratulated for attending the meeting to assist in answering any questions that related to community safety. I look forward to further Community Morning Teas in other suburbs throughout Bunbury in the coming months.



John discusses community safety with Karen & Joe Mustica and John Kowal from the City of Bunbury.



Assisted by Deaf Interpreter Carol Attard, John addresses the large crowd to Celebrate 100 Years of Scout & Guiding.

Scouts & Guides - Turn 100

The Scout and Guiding Movement came into focus in our community this past month with the celebrations for 100 years of the movement.

Just as Sir Baden Powell saw the need to teach and encourage young people to be responsible and to help others 100 years ago, today's Scouts and Guides continue in the age old tradition of learning to do good deeds, thus creating good citizens.

Bunbury has seen outstanding results of Scouting and Guiding in producing good citizens with many former Young Citizens of the Year such as Michael Massingham,

Anthony Ness, Natalie Veart and Samantha Massingham having come from within the movement.

Good citizens create a great community and as Patron of Scouts for the Forrest Division, I congratulate the many Leaders of the movement who continue to work with our youth for a better future.

Congratulations and thanks also to the many organisers of the celebrations and to the Bunbury City Band and the Combined Community Choir for contributing to the event and, themselves, providing examples of good citizenship to our youth.

Teacher Shortages

Education has been in the spotlight regularly over the past twelve months, mostly for the wrong reasons. It is disturbing to see that many schools began the school year with staff shortages and the Minister is currently planning to recruit graduate teachers from the UK to fill these positions. I was therefore deeply concerned to learn that we have a number of our own graduate teachers, who have not been offered a position in any area within our state. I have a series of questions on notice to the Minister for Education on this subject. However I would be interested to hear from any other teacher who has not been offered full-time employment by the Education Department.

What Issues Are Important to you:

Let John know by emailing to jcastrilli@mp.wa.gov.au
or writing to 4B Spencer Street, Bunbury