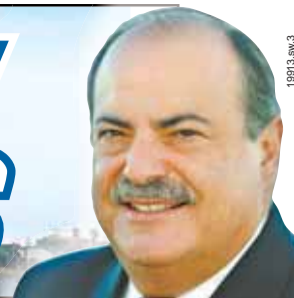


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John Castrilli's Community News

John Castrilli MLA - Representing the People of Bunbury



Donations help to fill the cupboards

WHILE Christmas is a time of joy for many, for those facing financial difficulties it can be stressful just struggling to make ends meet, let alone put a few "goodies" on the table.

At a recent sundowner, John Castrilli provided the opportunity for attendees to give something back to the community, as they were invited to take a non-perishable food item to donate.

"We invited guests to bring an item of food to be distributed to charity," John said.

"While we were enjoying festive food and drinks, at this time of year it pays to remember that there are people out there less fortunate."

"The response was fantastic and we collected a variety of food to be donated to Foodbank."

The items ranged from Christ-

mas cakes and puddings to staple items such as rice, pasta and tinned vegetables, which will all be added to Foodbank's distribution stocks to help people during the festive season and beyond.

Foodbank volunteer manager Rob Prestage said donations were always welcome from the public, no matter how large or small.

Cash donations to Foodbank, which are tax deductible, can also turn \$1 into the equivalent of \$1.70 worth of food.

At this time of year it pays to remember that there are people out there less fortunate



Foodbank's Rob Prestage, right, receives Christmas donations from John Castrilli and Dave Gulberti.



A message from John

THROUGHOUT the year, it has been my absolute privilege to catch up with many acquaintances as well as meet new members of the Bunbury community and find out more about what is happening in your lives.

It is always a pleasure when I can assist people, but I also enjoy simply catching up on the latest events and hearing what really matters to local people and their families.

From my point of view, 2009 has been an extremely busy year and one which has seen many changes.

I have settled into my role as a Minister with a diverse portfolio, and have balanced this with continuing to attend as many events and community functions in Bunbury as possible.

Bunbury remains my number one priority and as we head into the festive season, with people out and about enjoying themselves, I am constantly reminded that our city is a great place to live.

However, it troubles me that there are some in our community who may not feel the same way, for reasons such as unemployment, homelessness or social isolation.

Christmas can be a time of loneliness, stress, disillusionment and financial worries.

For this reason I encourage everyone to consider extending the hand of friendship and assistance this Christmas, if they are able.

Whether donating food or gifts to charity, inviting someone new to Christmas lunch, or sharing a friendly chat with a neighbour you don't often talk to, we can all help to make our community a better place all year round.



'Adoption' aids understanding

JOHN celebrated his birthday in November, and was pleased to receive a visit at his office from Curtis Wild.

Curtis gave John a lovely gift before they sat down for a chat to catch up on the latest news.

Curtis, who has Down Syndrome, 'adopted' John in 2007 under the Adopt a Politician scheme, which aims to help raise awareness of the issues and challenges faced by people with disabilities.

The scheme brings together decision-makers, carers and people with disabilities to achieve real results and foster a greater mutual understanding.

It's also a great way for politicians to share in the lives of people with disabilities and find out more about the range of activities they enjoy.

Prepare now for fire season

WA is facing a severe bushfire season, predicted to be the worst in many years.

Bunbury MLA John Castrilli said the State Government was working towards making the community safer from the devastation of bushfires.

"The task for us all is to work together to ensure our State is prepared for the fire season," Mr Castrilli said.

Following the tragedy of last summer's Victorian bushfires, the Barnett Government has put in place new measures to better protect people and property from bushfires.

These measures include:

- Changes to the Bush Fire Act to introduce total fire bans, new arrangements for the control of major fires, changes to the definition of the word 'property' to include Crown land and bush as part of the

State Government's ongoing fight against arson

- A revised fire danger rating system to include the terms 'severe' and 'catastrophic';

- A successful trial of StateAlert, a new system which will send potentially lifesaving warnings to communities where lives may be at risk from a rapidly developing emergency;

- The introduction of the 'Prepare, Act, Survive' strategy, which puts more emphasis on residents leaving their homes during a bushfire.

"I urge you, no matter where you live or what your fire experience has been, to get fire ready," Mr Castrilli said.

"Identify your risk, prepare your bushfire survival plan, clean up your property and get involved in your local fire preparation activities."

"Whether you live in a bushfire-

prone area or a unit in the city, we are all in it together. Even if you live in the city or suburbs, you may still travel further afield for holidays and work and so you, too, need to be prepared."

Mr Castrilli said the new measures would provide for a more coordinated and collaborative approach to fire management in WA to boost community safety.

The introduction of total fire bans will replace the current need to declare a bushfire emergency period. WA was the only State in Australia where the fire agency had no legislative provisions to declare a total fire ban.

The existing bushfire emergency period can interfere with businesses that undertake 'hot work' such as welding or grinding and may have to down tools for lengthy periods of time.

The more defined nature of a total fire ban means that, in the right

circumstances with the appropriate exemptions, there will be less disruption to industry.

The proposed changes would also see new arrangements for the control of major fires in WA.

When a major fire occurs and resources are stretched, FESA can assume control to provide an effective, coordinated and collaborative approach to help ensure community safety.

Detailed information is available on FESA's website at www.fesa.wa.gov.au or contact FESA's Manager for Community Safety on 9323 9880.

People can register for State Alert online at:

www.statealert.wa.gov.au

Those without internet access or who need help registering can call 1300 ALERTS (1300 253 787).



John Castrilli and Bunbury Port Authority Chair Neema Premji unveil a new plaque marking the port's centenary.

Unveiling marks history of port

THE Bunbury Port open day and centenary celebrations on November 22 were a chance for the local community to learn more about the workings of the port, a major driver and facilitator of growth in the region.

Before attending the open day at the Inner Harbour, Bunbury MLA John Castrilli was invited to unveil a plaque commemorating the port's centenary.

He also officially opened Ganfield Park, a wonderful park and children's playground located near the Inner Harbour.

The park is named after Colin Ganfield, a long-serving waterfront worker and BPA board member.

Many of Mr Ganfield's relatives were in attendance at the official opening, and the new facilities were already being enjoyed by families with young children.

"The port is an important part of our future, as well as an integral part of what has shaped our city," Mr Castrilli said.

"The new park and the plaque are both symbols of the port's long history and its association with the local community."

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