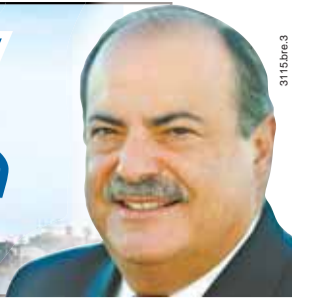


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John Castrilli's Community News

John Castrilli MLA - Representing the People of Bunbury



Funding boost adds to range on offer at Milligan

LOCAL children and families will be the winners from a Lotterywest grant provided recently to Milligan Community Learning and Resource Centre.

The funds will be used to buy computer equipment, a set of drums, digital camera and more, which will add to the range of equipment available for adults and children to use.

"Milligan has grown over the years and is an important social hub of our community, as well as a source of a wonderful range of resources and learning opportunities," John Castrilli said. He is pictured presenting the cheque for \$10,000 to Milligan chairperson Michelle Elson.

Time to have your say

THERE are less than five weeks left for local residents to have their say on proposed amendments relating to land areas which form part of the Bunbury Waterfront Project.

The zoning amendments under the Greater Bunbury Region Scheme are open for public comment until May 17.

Zoning changes have been proposed for three areas, known as Koombana North, Koombana South and Marlston North.

Bunbury MLA John Castrilli said there were several important differences between the Waterfront Taskforce recommendations and the 2008 Landcorp plan.

Approximately 90 per cent of Public Open Space in Koombana South would be retained under the Taskforce recommendation.

Setbacks from the water would be increased from a minimum of 10 metres to a minimum of 47 m with an average setback of 65m.

"And we recognise that people don't want high rise in Bunbury, so instead of 17 storeys in



Public comment is being sought on proposed zoning changes for three areas, known as Koombana North, Koombana South and Marlston North.

Koombana South, development would only be up to five storeys, with one small section a maximum of 7 storeys to link with the current building located opposite at the Silos," Mr Castrilli said.

He said it was important for people to understand the details of the proposal as there was a level of misinformation which unfortunately was causing confusion in the community.

"What I want to make absolutely clear to people is that this part of the process is not about making decisions on final developments, it is the time for people to comment on planning amendments to the land-use zoning of the area," Mr Castrilli said.

"Before any development can take place, the City of Bunbury will need to amend their local planning scheme.

"There will be the opportunity for public submissions at each key stage."

Copies of the amendment report are available at the City of Bunbury office, along with information on how to make a submission.

A scale model is also on display (pictured left) showing the three areas covered by the proposed zoning amendments.

For more information on the proposed changes go to

www.planning.wa.gov.au/comment

HUGS boost helps families pay bills

WITH the cooler weather on its way, many households will find they start using more gas and electricity, which may impact on their bills.

People in genuine financial hardship who face having their utilities disconnected, or have been disconnected, can apply for assistance through the Hardship Utilities Grants Scheme.

"I understand that many local people are doing it tough financially, which is why I'm pleased the State Government has increased the level of help available through the HUGS scheme," Bunbury MLA John Castrilli said.

An extra \$3.6 million will be provided in 2010-11 to fund HUGS grants to households, and employ more financial counsellors to help people through the process.

The scheme's overall funding has been increased by \$16.8 million by the Liberal-National Government.

"If people are having difficulty paying a gas, power or water bill, it is important they contact the service provider BEFORE it is cut off to discuss their situation," Mr Castrilli said.

"Once the supply is cut off, it becomes more expensive to reconnect so I urge people to seek help before it gets to that stage."

The first step in applying for HUGS is to contact the service provider on the phone number listed on your gas,

'Just as people have learnt to be water-wise, we can also learn to be more energy-wise with simple measures . . .'

power or water bill, and discuss your situation so you can be referred to a financial counsellor.

"During the process of receiving HUGS assistance, people speak with a financial counsellor which is important because they can work on longer-term strategies to manage money in the future," Mr Castrilli said.

"Over the winter months, people often use more electricity and gas, but there are also a range of things you can do to help reduce your energy bills."

"Just as people have learnt to be water-wise, we can also learn to be more energy-wise with simple measures like turning off lights, only using room heaters when necessary, and using the clothesline if possible instead of tumble dryers, which use huge amounts of energy," Mr Castrilli said.

More information on being energy-smart is available from John Castrilli's office or online at www.clean.energy.wa.gov.au/pages/esh_energy_smart_tips.asp

Land settlement a milestone in journey

AS anyone who has ever bought a home knows, the settlement date is the all-important moment to look forward to.

And when you are building a facility to provide accommodation and respite for young people with high care needs, the settlement date of the land is just as exciting.

The purchase of land at Treendale, funded by the State Government, recently reached settlement.

It will provide for a new facility to be built to offer high care for young people with degenerative neurological conditions or acquired brain injuries.

"The settlement was an exciting milestone in what has been a long process," John Castrilli said.

Dragon boats fire up



John Castrilli, with race commentator Keith Harvey, prepares to take part in the traditional "dotting of the eye" ceremony.

IN early March John Castrilli was invited to take part in the traditional "dotting of the eye" during the opening ceremony of Bunbury's dragon boat regatta.

The ceremony "awakens the dragon" before each boat is raced, and is an important part of any dragon boat regatta.

Mr Castrilli has long been a strong supporter of dragon boating in Bunbury and said he was honoured to again be involved in the ceremony, along with renowned dragon boat race caller Keith Harvey.

"It was a privilege to again be able to dot the eye of the dragons, and to catch up with Keith Harvey who is not only highly esteemed in dragon boating circles but also a wonderful ambassador for Bunbury as a whole," Mr Castrilli said.

"Dragon boating is a wonderful sport which people of all ages and abilities can enjoy, and I would encourage more people to give it a go."

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