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John Castrilli's Community News

John Castrilli MLA - Representing the People of Bunbury




Funding for upgrades

IMPORTANT community organisations in Bunbury are continuing to receive funding from a variety of sources including Lotterywest and the State Government's Royalties for Regions.

Royalties for Regions funding of more than \$132,000 and a Lotterywest grant of \$90,000 will help Morrissey Homestead soon start work on a \$400,000 expansion project.

John Castrilli presented the Lotterywest cheque recently to the centre, which provides a range of services for the elderly, people with disabilities and culturally and linguistically diverse residents.

He is pictured Cyril Delaporte, Stan Gibb and Bob Bollom during the Men's Shed.

Community feedback on mental health

BACK in 2005, Bunbury was given the shameful label of being one of the worst areas in Australia for accessing mental health care.

Since then, some important improvements have been made and work is continuing towards giving local people better access to appropriate services.

Over recent years, vital progress has been made including specialist housing for people with mental illness, the new mental health clinic and expanded acute psychiatric unit at the South West Health Campus.

"However, there is still much work to be done in order to give people with mental health issues the level services they require," Mr Castrilli said.

"I am pleased that this Government recognised the need for a stronger focus and cre-

ated the portfolio of Minister for Mental Health, which no other State in Australia has done."

"In addition we have formed the Mental Health Commission which has a \$500million budget separate from the rest of Health, and appointed WA's first-ever Mental Health Commissioner."

Mr Castrilli is continuing to work closely with Minister Jacobs on addressing Bunbury's needs.

"In the past there has been a focus on mental illness and working with people who are in crisis situations," Mr Castrilli said.

"However there is now increased recognition of the need to promote mental wellbeing throughout the community and address

mental health concerns before people reach crisis point."

On July 18 a community forum was held in Bunbury to get feedback on the publication of 'WA Mental Health Towards 2020: Consultation Paper' and discuss the way forward.

Important topics which were raised by community members included the need to address stigma and "old views" of mental health, the importance of prevention and early intervention, services for children and young people, and the need to 'close the gaps' between mental health and other service areas.

"We do recognise that sadly, some people still slip through the gaps in the system and this is something that is being looked at as part of the Towards 2020 consultation process," Mr Castrilli said.

Surgeon's decades of dedication recognised

DESPITE being officially retired, Bunbury surgeon Dr Val Lishman maintains a busy professional schedule which has seen him named the AMA (WA) 2010 Doctor of the Year.

After he 'retired' in 1997, Dr Lishman continued practising as a remote-area locum doctor until 2006 and now, continues to teach and examine trainees in emergency medicine on behalf of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

Bunbury MLA John Castrilli congratulated Dr Lishman on his award and said the entire community should feel proud of his achievements.

"I was immensely pleased that Dr Lishman was honoured with this prestigious award, which also reflects positively on the wider South West community," Mr Castrilli said.

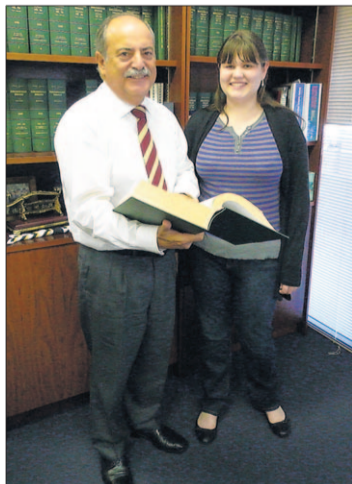
"Dr Lishman's dedication to improving the health not only of local people, but also of communities across WA and internationally, is truly exceptional."



Dr Val Lishman is named Doctor of the Year by AMA (WA) president, A/Prof David Mountain

"Through my association with Dr Lishman over the years, I have been inspired by the tireless dedication he has shown to the medical profession and to the advancement of services and medical research in the South West through the work of the Val Lishman Health Research Foundation."

Student gains inside view of Parliament



BUNBURY Catholic College student Bronwyn Ayre got a first-hand experience of life as a politician when she was chosen to take part in the YMCA Youth Parliament in July.

Bronwyn was sponsored by John Castrilli to take part in the week-long camp and participated as the Member for Bunbury in Youth Parliament.

She said it was "a fantastic experience which has enabled me to not only meet other young people from around Western Australia with an interest in politics, but also hear their opinions and differing thoughts of a large range of issues."

On her return, Bronwyn met with Mr Castrilli to share her experiences and share some stories from inside the walls of Parliament.

DAFFODIL DAY ADDS CHEER TO CITY



BRIGHT yellow flowers were popping up all over the city on Friday as Daffodil Day volunteers raised money for cancer support and research.

John Castrilli helped out at Centrepoint where Elizabeth Hovey and Lynne King (pictured) were selling an array of colourful fundraising merchandise.

volunteers were manning a stall of colourful merchandise.

"With statistics showing an increasing number of

people being diagnosed with various cancers, it really affects a huge part of our population," Mr Castrilli said.

"It is not just those who have cancer, but their families, friends, colleagues, carers and the wider community who are all affected."

"I thank and congratulate staff and volunteers from the Cancer Council, plus everyone who bought Daffodil Day items or made donations towards such an important cause."

Safety checks for gas appliances

JOHN Castrilli is urging local residents to find out if they are eligible for a State Government program to safety-test and in some cases replace old gas appliances.

It will only apply to appliances which use natural gas (not LPG) and were manufactured and installed before 1980.

Future changes to WA's natural gas supply mean that some pre-1980 household gas appliances including heaters, hot

water units and cooking appliances could pose a safety risk and may be replaced free of charge under the Appliance Recertification Program.

If your home has a natural (piped) gas appliance that was installed before 1980, contact the hotline on 1800 110 464 or visit the website at www.gasapplianceprogram.com.au

"If your appliance needs replacing, the good news is that you won't have to pay for the replace-

ment product or installation," Mr Castrilli said.

"However, this is a long-term program to test appliances across the Perth area and beyond, so residents should be aware that there may be a waiting list to get their appliance checked, and replaced if necessary."

"I would encourage people to call the hotline to find out if their pre-1980 appliance is eligible for the program and seek further advice."

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