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John Castrilli's Community News

John Castrilli MLA - Representing the People of Bunbury



Donations help fill the cupboards for charities

RADIOWEST announcers Cliff Reeve and Nay Pearce were "kidnapped" and held hostage in a dinghy last week - but it was all for a good cause as they put out the call for people to make donations to help the Salvos.

They were warned they wouldn't be released from their floating prison until they had persuaded people to come and fill a trailer with food for the Salvation Army's Christmas Appeal.

John was happy to oblige, despite his well-known reluctance to step off dry land. He took a donation of food and gifts to help add to the mountain of goodies for the Salvos - and help secure Cliff and Nay's release!

John also recently visited Foodbank to hand over two large packages of food donated at a recent function. Foodbank administration manager Kent Machar gratefully received the items which



Foodbank's Kent Machar says despite donations from many local residents and businesses, more food is still needed for distribution before Christmas.



John Castrilli tested his sea legs to deliver a package of food and gifts to Radiowest's Cliff and Nay for their Salvation Army appeal last week.

ranged from Christmas cakes and puddings to staple items such as rice, pasta and tinned vegetables, to be added to the agency's distribution stocks.

"Foodbank does a wonderful job throughout the year, providing a link between food producers and suppliers, and welfare agencies," Mr Castrilli said.

"Their services are particularly important at Christmas time when food is distributed in bulk to local churches and welfare agencies and hampers are provided to those less fortunate to help them have a happy Christmas."

"However, when I visited Foodbank the shelves were looking bare so I would urge anyone who is able to donate an item of food."

Foodbank administration manager Kent Machar said the centre couldn't keep up with demand for food, despite an outpouring of generosity from local groups and individuals who had already made donations to collection boxes outside local supermarkets.

Foodbank is also seeking more volunteers for the Bunbury depot. Anyone interested in volunteering or making a donation can call 9726 2362

A MESSAGE FROM JOHN

As the year draws to an end I would like to offer my sincere thanks to all in our community who help make this time of year special.

As well as all the festive food and celebrations, Christmas is a time to reflect on our family, friends and community.

In a world where we are often bombarded with negatives, Christmas reminds us of our hope for the future, the goodwill within our community, and the importance of sharing.

I would like to say a heartfelt thankyou and congratulations to everyone who has worked on events which draw our community together to share the spirit of the season, including the Christmas street carnival, charity toy run, Carols by Candlelight, Des Ugle Park celebrations and more.

As well as being enjoyable occasions for local families, these events show the strength of our community as volunteers band together and people give many hours of their time and expertise to help our city truly celebrate Christmas.

I offer my best wishes for a Christmas filled with happy memories, and a New Year blessed with good health and the fulfilment of your ambitions.

Royalties funding round now open

LOCAL community groups are being encouraged to apply for funding under the latest round of the Royalties for Regions contestable grants scheme.

Funding is available for projects which improve facilities, offer better services for residents or attract tourism and investment. "Last financial year, a total of 37 projects across the South West received Royalties for Regions funding totalling \$2.8 million," Mr Castrilli said.

Funding applications close on March 10, 2011 and more details are available from the South West Development Commission on 9792 2000.

Upgrades offer fresh start Fire safety important for all households

THE past year has seen some important upgrades underway and completed at local schools thanks to a raft of State Government funding.

More than \$8m is being spent on refurbishments and new buildings at Bunbury, South Bunbury and Withers primary schools and Bunbury Senior High School.

John Castrilli visited Withers Primary School last week to view the progress and said he was delighted with what had been achieved with \$1.6million in State funding.

"It is fantastic to see the school forging ahead with some important changes, both in terms of the new buildings and more widely with a range of new initiatives planned which aim to involve the local community more strongly in the school," Mr Castrilli said.

The State Government funding also enabled disabled toilets to be built, along with landscaping works and improvements to the schools sporting facilities.

"It is wonderful to be able to see the outcome of several years of hard work and planning, and I know the staff and students are really going to benefit from these upgrades."

The new administration building is due to be completed in early 2011 and principal Stuart Cumming said it was part of a major overhaul of the school's facilities which also included Federally-funded projects such as the library and undercover area.



John views progress on the new administration building at Withers Primary School with principal Stuart Cumming.

Summer is upon us and if you haven't already taken steps to make sure your home or rural property is prepared for the threat of fires, it is vital to do so now.

"Some areas of Bunbury and surrounding suburbs are more fire-prone than others but it is important that all households make sure they have taken steps to improve fire safety," John Castrilli said.

"Even in urban areas, it is important to ensure your gutters are free of dry leaves, prune any dry or dead tree branches and do not store flammable items near your house."

Detailed information on preparing for the bushfire season is available at www.fesa.wa.gov.au

Seniors rebate on offer

Mr Castrilli said an important State Government rebate had also been introduced to help seniors with the cost of buying and instal-

ling household fire safety devices.

The WA Seniors Safety and Security Rebate program has been expanded to offer a rebate of up to \$200 on items such as mains-powered smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, fire blankets and electrical residual current devices (RCDs).

Seniors Card holders who have already claimed the \$200 home security rebate can now apply for the fire safety rebate.

"This program offers another helping hand for seniors in our community and addresses two areas which I know are of concern to local people - home security and the threat of fires or electrical faults," Mr Castrilli said.

Application forms for the Seniors Safety and Security Rebate are available from John Castrilli's office at 4B Spencer Street or phone 9791 3636.

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