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John Castrilli's Community News



John Castrilli MLA - Representing the People of Bunbury

EELUP UPDATE

JOHN Castrilli has confirmed that safety will be improved at Eelup roundabout with the construction of a smaller roundabout forming Stage 1 of the flyover project.

"Contrary to recent media reports, planning and design work by Main Roads is well progressed and construction will start next year on the smaller roundabout, which is the necessary first stage of the Eelup Flyover project," Mr Castrilli said.

"Stage 1 is expected to reduce cra-

shes by two-thirds so this will be a major safety improvement in itself.

"Before the last election, I pledged that a Liberal government would begin construction of the Eelup flyover and this is what we are doing."

"The smaller roundabout will form the base level of the project."

"Planning for such a large project takes time and roadworks are also weather-dependent but we expect to see work on the ground starting next year for Stage 1.

R4R helps range of projects

COMMUNITY groups and organisations in Bunbury will benefit from more than \$2.1 million in Royalties for Regions funding across two sections of the grant scheme.

Bunbury MLA John Castrilli said the money would go towards a range of important projects in the city and surrounds.

"I am delighted there have been a wide range of Regional Grants projects funded in the areas of health, family and community services, sea rescue, indigenous heritage, and the environment," he said.

"We are very lucky to have some wonderful community and volunteer organisations in Bunbury, and several of these have received funding including Meals on Wheels and Senior Citizens, Bunbury Sea Rescue, Volunteer South

West, Investing in Our Youth and the Bunbury Women's Club."

"Major funding has also been delivered through the Strategic Projects category, including \$950,000 towards the Dolphin Discovery Centre redevelopment project."

Mr Castrilli said the different funding categories meant money was spread throughout the community to benefit as many people as possible.

"The funding reflects the diverse range of projects being undertaken in Bunbury which will benefit people right across the community, from seniors to toddlers."

"It will have a positive impact on areas including health, family services, the environment, and tourism, so it really covers a wide cross-section of needs in the community."

Cards offer pensioner fuel savings

PEOPLE receiving a pension payment are being urged to check whether they are now eligible for the State Government's \$500 Country Pensioner Fuel Card.

"As a result of feedback from people in the community, the program has been expanded," John Castrilli said.

"Many people may not realise that they can now apply for the card even if they were not previously eligible."

Overall, \$96 million is being spent over four years to help thousands of country pensioners with their transport costs. In addition to aged pensioners and people receiving a DVA service pension, the card is now available to those receiving Centrelink categories:

- Disability Support
- Carer Payment
- Widow B or Wife pension.

"People also may not know that you don't need to own a car or have a licence to apply for the fuel card," Mr Castrilli said.

"It has been recognised that aged or disability pensioners may rely on family members to drive them to and from appointments, shopping and other outings."

"Therefore family members can use the fuel card, with the cardholder's permission, to help them with transport, and of course it can also be used for taxi travel."

New applications can be made using the form available from Australia Post outlets. If you received the fuel card last year you do not need to reapply and you should receive your new card by the end of July. If you have changed your address, call the Fuel Card hotline on 1300 666 609

Seniors reap benefits of vision



Bernie Ward, Tom Smith and John Thomson talk to John Castrilli about the future plans of Thommo's Community Garden.

AFTER paying a visit to Thommo's Community Garden recently, John was amazed at the progress which has been made by the group in just over 12 months.

The garden was established in honour of a long-serving employee of the City of Bunbury, the late Colin Thomson, who started the project just a few months before his death in February 2009.

It aims to provide an area for seniors who don't have enough room for a vegetable garden at home, or who want to enjoy the benefits of sharing their gardening time with other like-minded people.

"As well as the obvious benefits of growing your own vegetables, this garden offers an important gathering place for people who may otherwise feel socially isolated as the years go on," Mr Castrilli said.

"I was blown away by the amaz-

ing work which has been done at the site and the enthusiasm of everyone involved. Even in the middle of winter, it is a hive of activity."

"The group's efforts have been helped enormously by a range of generous sponsors and supporters, and I congratulate all of them for helping this project become a reality."

"I am particularly impressed that as well as members' garden plots, it also includes areas which grow and supply much-needed fresh produce to local welfare organisations."

"The members now plan to expand the number of garden beds available so that more people can enjoy the benefits that come with growing your own food, enjoying the fresh air and healthy physical activity."



Troy Bennell and David Dann play didgeridoo, while a dance is performed by Bailey, Ryan and Troy Bennell Jr, and Duncan Craig Bennell Jr at the opening celebrations of the Wilkerson Way mural project.

Mural promotes cultural harmony



John adds his handprint to the community mural.

A COLOURFUL mural promoting respect and cultural harmony was recently officially unveiled in a local laneway which had been plagued by graffiti.

Residents in the area surrounding Wilkerson Way in Withers had approached John Castrilli about the vandalism which was rampant in the area, and Mr Castrilli requested the City of Bunbury consider including the laneway in its public art program.

The mural has now been completed as one of the City's 'Outer Spaces' projects, which involve local youth as well as the wider community with the aim of fostering pride in the area and discouraging future graffiti.

"I was delighted to be able to see the end result of this project, which involved local school students

working under the guidance of youth worker Cassandra Atkinson and artist Troy Bennell to create an impressive public artwork," Mr Castrilli said.

"The mural promotes the concepts of harmony and respect, which is very close to my heart as a champion of Choose Respect in Bunbury."

"There are also some incredibly inspiring residents living nearby, who have taken it upon themselves to collect rubbish every day and help make the whole area more attractive."

"Their efforts show the true meaning of community spirit and prove that everyone can play a part in helping make Bunbury a better place to live, no matter what their age or income."

Free hearing tests for newborns

ALL babies born at Bunbury Regional Hospital will now receive a free screening test for hearing problems, making early intervention possible.

The program started in May this year and involves a simple, non-intrusive test.

Bunbury MLA John Castrilli started lobbying in 2006 for babies born at Bunbury's public hospital to be able to receive the test for free.

"When the new Government came in, I approached Health Minister Kim Hames about the situation and he took action to have the program rolled out in regional areas including Bunbury," Mr Castrilli said.

"The first three years are critical for a child's speech and language development so the newborn screening test means that any problems can be picked up immediately."

"This allows early intervention strategies to be used to give the



Infant screening involves newborns undergoing a simple and non-intrusive hearing test.

child the best possible outcomes and ability to reach normal language milestones."

Between 1 and 2 babies in 1000 are born with a hearing loss and 50 per cent of these don't have any risk factors such as premature or birth complications.

T: 9791 3636
F: 9791 3313

E: john.castrilli@mp.wa.gov.au
www.johncastrilli.com.au

"Fostering a culture of respect in our community"

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