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John Castrilli's Community News

John Castrilli MLA - Representing the People of Bunbury



EXCITING YEAR OF PROJECTS

As we move into a new year, progress is continuing on a range of important initiatives to benefit the local community. John Castrilli outlines his priorities for the year and projects he is continuing to work on . . .

Health services

Improving our local health system is always a top priority and in 2011 there are some exciting projects which we will see brought to fruition, including the opening of the new cancer radiotherapy unit at the Bunbury Health Campus later this year.

Patients needing radiotherapy for the most common types of cancers will be able to have the treatment close to home, reducing the physical, financial and emotional burden of travelling and staying in Perth.

Genesis Care has been awarded the contract to provide radiation oncology services at the \$15.2million centre.

Before the last election I pledged to see this vital facility delivered and I am thrilled this important element of the project has been now finalised, soon adding to the raft of health services available at the South West Health Campus.

I also look forward to opening our much-needed

Intensive Care Unit – which will be the first regional ICU in the State – and progress towards the expansion of the emergency department.

All these facilities will improve patient outcomes and allow more critically-ill or injured patients to be treated closer to home.

Bunbury waterfront

The Waterfront Project has huge potential to revitalise our city and I look forward to seeing a community-driven vision emerge in 2011.

Unfortunately there has been a lot of conflict, misinformation and delays surrounding this project.

Currently no planning whatsoever can occur for any of the waterfront sites because of an anomaly with the land-use zoning of the area. But I hope 2011 will be a year for action and better cooperation to ensure progress towards a more vibrant future for this under-utilised area of our city.

All the public submissions made last year on the project areas – Marlston North, Koombana North and



Bunbury MLA John Castrilli looks over progress on the new South West radiotherapy centre with Perkins site manager Ray Comley.

Koombana South – have now been assessed and I expect an announcement will soon be made regarding the three areas by the Minister for Planning, John Day.

I want to see a long-term vision established for the waterfront area but it needs to be a vision which is in tune with public expectations.

High-care facility

The project to offer an alternative to young people living in nursing homes is close to my heart and one which I have been pushing for during the past eight years. In 2010 the MS Society came on board, the State Government donated land in Treendale and the ground

works began. In 2011, I hope to see construction progress without delays to ensure it will be operational by 2012. This facility will cater for people aged under 55 with an acquired brain injury or degenerative neurological condition requiring high-level care. It is being built by the MS Society which will manage it and Rotary has also become a generous supporter.

Land Swap

I hope that the College Grove Land Swap agreement will be finalised between the State Government and City of Bunbury early in 2011.

In 2008 I proposed that a land swap be entered into, to save this precious bushland from clearing. This has been a complex process between the parties involved but I hope to see a resolution soon for the sake of our environment, the City of Bunbury and residents of College Grove.

Since the land swap was proposed, a moratorium on further clearing at College Grove has been in effect.

I look forward to the day when this situation is formalised to protect important bushland for the future, while also compensating the City of Bunbury for the loss of income from the College Grove subdivision, which it is a joint partner in. This will also provide the City of Bunbury with

funding to complete the much-needed Somerville Drive extension.

School upgrades

With the new school year just a week away, parents, students and staff can look forward to seeing several upgrades completed soon at local schools.

Several important State-funded school projects are nearing completion in Bunbury, in addition to others completed last year.

I look forward to seeing all these upgrades operational in 2011 to create better learning environments.

They include:

- Bunbury Senior High School – Administration upgrade due for completion early 2011. Student services upgrade was completed in April 2010.
- Bunbury Primary School – Library Resource centre upgrade due for completion early 2011.
- South Bunbury P.S. – Two new activity areas plus upgrade including canteen and administration refurbishments, library modification, new carpark and access ramps due for completion April 2011
- Withers P.S. – New administration block due to open early 2011

Time out for a cuppa

John Castrilli took some time out last week to catch up over a coffee with Bunbury residents Curtis Wild and Lawrence Mitting (pictured).

Curtis “adopted” John through the Adopt a Politician program in 2007 and John has also struck up a firm friendship with Lawrence after advocating on his behalf on several issues.

“I think it’s important to remember that we all have different abilities and talents and we can all contribute to help make our community a better place,” Mr Castrilli said.

“I am inspired by the way Lawrence and Curtis are always positive and grab opportunities with both hands.”

The only thing the three disagree on is who is the better football team - John is an Eagles supporter while Curtis and Lawrence are both big Dockers fans who enjoyed watching their team grow stronger last year.



Have a say on mental health

Local residents have the opportunity to be at the forefront of mental health reform by nominating for membership of WA’s first Mental Health Advisory Council, announced recently by Mental Health Minister Helen Morton.

John Castrilli said it was important that the opinions and experiences of mental health consumers, their families and carers from regional areas and diverse backgrounds, were heard alongside those of professionals in the field.

Expressions of interest are being sought for up to 11 community members for the council, who will be appointed by the Minister for Mental Health on the recommendation of the chair.

Nomination forms are available online at www.mentalhealth.wa.gov.au or from John Castrilli’s office at 4B Spencer Street.

Nominations close on Friday, February 11.

Celebrating achievements

AUSTRALIA Day is a time of great celebration in the local community.

John Castrilli said tomorrow’s events were also an opportunity for people to pay tribute to the work of previous generations and acknowledge our current volunteers and leaders.

“As people enjoy some time to relax tomorrow, I would also urge them to look to the future and think about what they can do to help others and become more involved in our local community,” Mr Castrilli said.

“I offer my congratulations to those who will be named as Bunbury’s Citizens of the Year, and hope that others can take inspiration from them.”

Mr Castrilli encouraged people to enjoy the festivities in and around Bunbury, but to act responsibly and if they were drinking, plan not to drive.



John Castrilli presented a State flag on Friday to 10th Light Horse Bunbury Troop members Harry Ball, on Dazza, Sandra Hall, on Layla, Kerri Gibbs, on Libby, and Alan Fairhead, on Silversprings Mistress. Also present were veteran Roger Edwards and Bunbury RSL president Glen Stoddart.

Keeping history alive

Members of the 10th Light Horse Bunbury Troop approached John Castrilli recently asking if he could donate a State flag to replace their old one, which was damaged by senseless vandals.

Mr Castrilli was more than happy to assist and presented troop members with a new flag on Friday which will be proudly displayed when they ride in parades and shows.

Troop president Harry Ball said they were looking for new members, particularly younger riders, so they could keep the history of the light horsemen alive and promote the skills of horsemanship.

They also plan to have a stronger presence at agricultural shows and events such as the Anzac Day parade.

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