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John Castrilli's Community News

John Castrilli MLA - Representing the People of Bunbury



Donation to bring dream a step closer

Two important steps have been taken towards fulfilling a dream to create a local accommodation facility for young people with disabilities.

The Rotary Club of South Bunbury last week donated more than \$82,000 towards the construction of a high-care accommodation and respite facility for people under 55 with acquired brain injuries or degenerative neurological conditions such as multiple sclerosis.

A builder has now been appointed for the \$4m facility in Treendale which will include 11 high support accommodation units and 9 respite units.

It is being built on a large block purchased in 2009 with funds provided by the State Government, fulfilling an election commitment made by John Castrilli.

Mr Castrilli said it was a project close to his heart and the feeling of excitement was incredible as it moved towards fruition, with the facility to be built and managed by the MS Society of WA.

"This is going to have immeasur-

able benefits for our community so it is fantastic to see the community already getting behind the project, with Rotary's donation an important boost to funding," Mr Castrilli said.

"Planning approvals have been met, a builder has now been appointed and we expect construction to be completed in about 12 months."

"I wish to also pay tribute to the many families who shared their personal stories when we were investigating the need for this facility, because they were the reason I knew we had to make this happen."

MS Society of WA chief executive officer Marcus Stafford said it was fantastic to see the project moving forward.

"This is a great illustration of how a partnership can very successfully work between Government and the private sector," Mr Stafford said.

"I thank the Rotary Club of South Bunbury for their generous contribution towards the facility which will be of great benefit to the South West community."

WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTIONS CELEBRATED



Last Tuesday was the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day and a range of events were held across WA to celebrate the enormous contribution of women in our society.

In Bunbury the One Voice Together celebrations included a range of entertainment, inspirational guest speakers and voices singing in unison to mark the occasion.

"Events such as these are an important way to celebrate the importance of women and their diverse roles in our society," said John Castrilli.

les in our society," said John Castrilli.

"Whether they are making a contribution through their career, voluntary work or as the unsung heroes in our community — our mothers and grandmothers — women's roles really do deserve to be honoured."

John also took the opportunity to reflect on the importance of the women in his life, including his wife Loretta, daughters Lisa and Deanna and mother Micheline, along with his granddaughter Rose.

Enable set to expand

Disability service provider Enable South West's new headquarters will soon be fully renovated thanks to a grant of more than \$700,000 from Lotterywest, which John Castrilli recently presented to the organisation.

"I am delighted that this grant funding will allow Enable to continue the excellent work it does in our community in assisting people with disabilities through a range of support services," Mr Castrilli said.

Enable has outgrown its existing building in Forrest Avenue and the grant will allow its new premises at 104 Beach Road to be converted into a suitable headquarters, having previously been a large function centre with no office space.

"Enable's new headquarters will not only offer a much-improved working environment for staff, but will also provide large meeting rooms which community groups will be able to use, so it is fulfilling



A Lotterywest grant of more than \$700,000 presented to Enable South West's CEO Rob Holmes will allow the organisation to renovate its new premises.

several important roles," Mr Castrilli said.

"Enable has been supporting families in our local community for 20 years and having this new headquarters will allow them to continue helping people well into the future."

Recognition of anniversary milestones

John Castrilli said his office has recently received several enquiries about the process of applying for congratulations letters for significant occasions such as 50th and 60th wedding anniversaries, and 90th and 100th birthdays.

People need to fill out an application form in order to receive letters from the Prime Minister, Governor-General and in some case

the Queen as letters are not automatically sent out.

While applications for birthday and anniversary letters are handled by the Federal Member of Parliament in each area, John's office can assist with any general inquiries on 9791 3636.

Full details are also available online at www.itsanhonour.gov.au/anniversary

Youth activities grants on offer

Local not-for-profit organisations can now apply for grants of up to \$25,000 for projects to help young people.

"These grants will provide resources to help young people realise their own potential and therefore help them change their lives for the better," John Castrilli said.

Applications for the grants must

address at least one of the criteria:

- improve mental and emotional wellbeing
- increase drug and alcohol awareness
- change community perceptions of young people
- enhance the capacity of youth sector agencies

- improve the lives of young people with disabilities
- provide support for young carers.

Application kits are available online at www.communities.wa.gov.au/grants or call John Castrilli's office on 9791 3636. Applications close on April 30.

Upgrades add to school spirit

South Bunbury Primary School has been undergoing a range of renovations and improvements which are already benefitting students and staff, with the major upgrades due to be completed by early May.

John Castrilli visited the school on Friday to view the progress, after helping the school to receive more than \$1.1million in State Government funding for the important work to go ahead.

Mr Castrilli said he was impressed at the well-planned improvements, which included two new activity areas, refurbishment of the canteen and administration area, a medical room, replacement of the old assembly stage, ramp access for wheelchairs and a breezeway to link the areas.

In addition, the old library has been converted into two classrooms and a much-needed archive room and cleaners' storeroom has also been added.

School principal Ian Harvey said the upgrades, combined with new Federally-funded buildings, were already making a big difference to students and staff and the atmosphere at the school was very positive.



South Bunbury Primary School principal Ian Harvey shows John Castrilli a range of upgrades at the school including an expanded assembly stage.

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