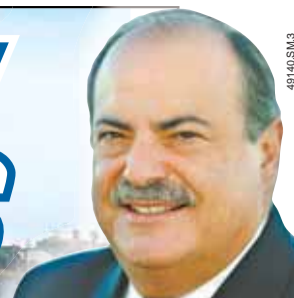


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John Castrilli's Community News



John Castrilli MLA - Representing the People of Bunbury



Graduation a memorable event

On April 19 a graduation ceremony was held for students of the Activ Pathways Bunbury program.

One of the graduates was Curtis Wild, who 'adopted' John Castrilli in 2007 under the Adopt a Politician program.

John was unable to attend the graduation ceremony due to Ministerial duties in Perth, but his wife Loretta was happy to go along and help support Curtis on this special occasion.

Curtis completed a Certificate 1 in Manufacturing through Activ Pathways which is a registered training organisation.

Boost for paramedics

Local emergency services will be strengthened as part of a response to an operational review of St John Ambulance.

Since 2009, the State Government has been working closely with private operator St John Ambulance to boost funding and improve resources to this essential service.

An inquiry into ambulance services made 13 recommendations to improve services and response times, which are all being addressed by St John Ambulance (SJA).

John Castrilli said he was pleased the changes being made by SJA, with assistance from the State Government, would help improve vital services to people in Bunbury and throughout regional WA.

A new Patient Transfer Vehicle has started operating from Bunbury and is the first of its kind outside the metro area. It will be used for non-urgent transfers of patients between hospitals and will help relieve demand on emergency services.

As part of a restructure, SJA will establish a regional office in Bunbury which will greatly assist local staff and volunteer paramedics in their roles and provide ongoing training and support, with a Regional Manager and Regional Training Coordinator to be appointed at the office.

In addition, SJA is currently advertising for a paramedic to begin work at the Australind station to complement services already provided by volunteers. A further two paramedics will be appointed to Australind in 2011-12. A total of 21 career paramedics will be recruited by SJA over the next three years to improve front line emergency services in regional centres.

Initiatives take school into the future

BUNBURY Senior High School was a hive of activity on April 1 when its new library was officially opened, and a program for Gifted and Talented students was also announced at the school.

John Castrilli was pleased to attend the library opening, especially as he attended the school himself and was a Prefect back in 1968.

He had also assisted in getting the library project off the ground several years ago when he was the Bunbury mayor, by working on land arrangements between the city council and the school.

Education Minister Liz Constable officially opened the state-of-the-art new library, and also launched the GATE project to be run at the school.

The Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program is a specialised course allowing students to advance themselves in different areas of study.

The need for a local GATE program was identified by John Castrilli more than a year ago.

"This is another first for Bunbury and will help give regional students the same opportunities as their city counterparts," Mr Castrilli said.

"The GATE program was previously only available in Perth and gifted country students either had to study online, board in the metro area or move to the city with their families.

"This will help address the 'brain drain' at all levels from our region by allowing gifted students and their families to remain part of our community while being able to extend themselves academically as part of the GATE program."

During the visit, Mr Castrilli also toured the school's upgraded facilities which were completed with \$2m of State funding



John Castrilli, Education Minister Liz Constable and the Bunbury Senior High School prefect group are delighted with the school's new library.

Safety to improve at Eelup

Safety and traffic flow at Bunbury's notorious Eelup Roundabout will be significantly improved after a \$16 million upgrade was announced last month.

"Stage 1 of the Eelup Project is an extremely important outcome for motorists and the local community and I am pleased that the physical work will soon start," Mr Castrilli said.

"The project will reduce the potential for driver error and lower

the frequency of crashes at this traffic hotspot."

Mr Castrilli said he had been calling for improvements to Eelup roundabout for several years and the first stage would include the installation of traffic lights and a slip lane for southbound traffic.

"These will not be traffic lights as we currently know them," he said.

"The lights will be coordinated

and cycle times will be very short to keep the traffic moving.

"Main Roads has done extremely thorough investigations, along with computer modelling using real world traffic scenarios including trucks moving off from the lights much slower than cars."

"The lights have been found to be the best option to improve safety and vehicle capacity while also being an integral first stage for the eventual overpass."

Work on the slip lane is expected to be completed by September. Work on the signals is expected to start in the second half of 2011, with completion expected in mid-2012.

The timeline for construction of the final stage of the project, which will include the flyover, will depend on traffic patterns following construction of the final stage of the Port Access Road and Bunbury Outer Ring Road, which is expected to take traffic pressure off the Eelup Roundabout.



Premier Colin Barnett and John Castrilli met with local conservationists on April 1 to discuss an establishment plan for the Preston River to Ocean Regional Park.

Park a win for environment

A long-awaited environmental outcome was achieved on April 1 when Premier Colin Barnett, supported by John Castrilli, announced the approval of the Establishment Plan for the Preston River to Ocean Regional Park.

"I am delighted that this important Park is now one step closer to reality," Mr Castrilli said.

"This has been talked about

for many years and is something I've been pushing strongly for, because it is important from both the environmental and land management perspectives.

"It will give us the opportunity to create a management regime, including responsibilities for the protection of the area and issues such as fencing and weed control.

"The Establishment Plan provides the basic framework for the Park, which includes Shearwater Tuart Forest, Manea Park and the Maidens Reserve, extending east-west over a total of seven kilometres.

"Government agencies are now working towards a management plan for the Park and seeking appropriate funding for long term management."

Projects addressed year-round in city

The State Budget will be delivered later this month and is expected to focus heavily on social policy areas, while continuing to be a responsible Government and addressing services.

John Castrilli said he was proud that a raft of projects to improve life for Bunbury residents, which were promised before the last election, have already had funding committed.

"It's one thing to allocate money but it's another to actually carry out the projects and I'm pleased that we've been able to deliver on our promises and get the work happening on the ground," Mr Castrilli said.

Work was progressing on all projects with several already completed over the past two years in a broad range of sectors, including health, education, training, transport and community services.

"In addition to the election commitments, Bunbury has been successful in attracting funding for a number of key projects such as the Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre upgrade," Mr Castrilli said.

"Delivering good outcomes for the people of Bunbury is not simply about lumping everything into an annual Budget announcement."

"I believe in addressing issues as and when they are needed, and steadily improving the excellent range of facilities and services that we have on offer in Bunbury and surrounds."

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