

BUNBURY COMMUNITY ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Statement by Member for Bunbury

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury) [12.57 pm]: Community arts, culture and heritage are an important part of the life of Bunbury and Dalyellup. I am impressed with the diversity of the Bunbury arts scene, and in particular the role of community groups in providing a place where people can meet, build relationships and find support, as well as providing a vehicle for artistic expression. The Stirling Arts Centre in Bunbury supports over 15 groups involved with everything from pottery, painting and woodcraft to needlework. With over 200 members, it is a major part of the community arts fabric of Bunbury and Dalyellup and communities across the south west. I especially want to acknowledge the chair of the centre, Margaret Perkins, who works tirelessly to support the centre, and the centre manager, Mr Graham Lush. The centre committee is developing plans to improve facilities at the centre, which is a heritage-listed former technical college. The improvements will enable the Stirling Arts Centre to host events such as this year's Western Australia Day event, which was attended by the Premier. My congratulations go to the committee and staff, and the membership. They have a centre they can be proud of.

Likewise, I have met with Maureen Eaton, the chairperson of the Bunbury Musical Comedy Group. This group struggles with increases in costs, especially council rates on its building, yet is able to provide a fantastic community service, hosting productions and providing a vehicle for young and old to participate in the theatre. I have also met with Bunbury's Rock 'N' Roll High School, run by Louise and Ian Kirk, which provides a great service for local youth seeking musical careers in production and performance. Bunbury Regional Art Gallery is an important venue, providing access to local artists to exhibit their work, and contributing to the development of the visual arts in the south west. I particularly note the work of Julian Bowron as director. I also note the fantastic work of the Bunbury Oral History Group. The Bunbury Multicultural Group is doing fantastic work in bringing to Bunbury and the south west the vibrancy of music and art from many different cultures.

Sitting suspended from 12.59 to 2.00 pm