

Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP
F18 Catamaran World Championships Opening Ceremony
Jervoise Bay Sailing Club Inc
Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle
Thursday, 29 January 2026

Kia Wanju Wanju (Hello and Welcome)

Welcome to the Opening Ceremony for the F18 Catamaran World Championships to be held on the waters off Cockburn Sound.

Having seen the Pre-Worlds – Australian National Championships come to an end on Australia Day.

I am delighted to be here with my wife Patricia and as Patron of the Jervoise Bay Sailing Club since March 2009.

I have been priveleged in my role as Mayor of the City of Cockburn to be the Patron of the sailing club during that time and to be able to ‘Open’ the sailing season each year at the beginning of October.

I acknowledge the Whadjup people of the Nyungar Nation the traditional custodians of the land on which we are meeting and I pay my respects to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to First Nation people with us tonight.

I acknowledge:

- The Honourable Reece Whitby MLA Minister for Police; Road Safety; Tourism; Great Southern, and Member for Baldivis;
- Mr David Scaife MLA Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier; Minister for State Development; Trade and Investment; Economic Diversification;
- Mr Steve Stroebel (USA) Vice President International Formula 18 Class Association;
- Ms Kim Lyndsay, Commodore of the Jervoise Bay Sailing Club; Members of the Club’s Management Committee and Other Members and Life Members;
- Competitors from Intrastate, Interstate and overseas;
- The officials and volunteers;
- Ladies and gentlemen, one and all.

Starting from tomorrow we will see world class catamaran racing on the beautiful waters of Cockburn Sound, manned by skilled sailors with support from their crews as they endeavour to get the best out of their catamarans.

The Fremantle Doctor comes in regularly at this time of the year ensuring amazing conditions for sailing – there'll be no cobwebs left as many of you will have found at practice already.

I know the management committee have put together a great program of racing however the social calendar looks amazing and of course there is the Prize Giving and Closing Ceremony to look forward to on the evening of 3 February.

Fremantle and Cockburn have had the great honour of having sailing events held in their local government areas over many years.

Fremantle recently hosted the Oracle Perth Sail Grand Prix on the 17 – 18 January 2026. The event captivated the sailing and general community as sailing crews from across the world participated. The event will return to Fremantle in 2027 and 2028.

The Jervoise Bay Sailing Club also have a long history of hosting successful world class sailing events as well.

In closing, ladies and gentlemen, I have great pleasure in formally declaring open the F18 World Sailing Championships – may you find the competition full of challenges, excitement, reward and making new friends.

I'll leave you with this quote from Felix Riesenberg:

“No literature is richer, than the sea.

No story is more enthralling, no tradition is more secure.”

Thank you.