

Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett JP
Volunteer 'Thank You' Sundowner
Coogee Beach Surf Club
Thursday 4 December 2025

Thank you, Kristine.

Kaya and welcome, everyone. It's wonderful to see so many familiar faces here this evening.

I acknowledge the Whadjuk Nyungar people of Beeliar Boodjar, the Traditional Custodians of the land we gather on and I pay my respects to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to any First Nations people joining us tonight.

I'd also like to acknowledge our Elected Members and City staff joining us this evening, including:

- Deputy Mayor Corke;
- Councillors;
- CEO Daniel Simms;
- Director Community and Place, Kylie Johnson;
- Group Manager Community Services, Kari Jamieson;
- Service Manager Community Development, Evan Hillman;
- Simone Sieber and the Community Development team;
- Kristine and Chloe from the Cockburn Volunteer Centre;
- my wife Patricia; and
- Our many volunteers present tonight.

Tomorrow is International Volunteers Day, a global celebration recognising how volunteer effort strengthens communities and drives positive change.

It's the perfect moment to come together and acknowledge the incredible contribution you all make.

A warm welcome to every volunteer here tonight from local community groups, clubs, and not-for-profit organisations.

Thank you for taking the time to join us as we say a heartfelt “thank you” for the extraordinary work you do.

It always inspires and amazes how many volunteers we have in the City.

The 2021 Census recorded that around 13,000 Cockburn residents volunteered in the previous year.

Through our Cockburn Volunteer Centre we have 283 registered volunteers and around 400 community groups connected with us.

But the real number is far greater, because so many of you give your time quietly, consistently, and without seeking recognition. And that is what makes this community so strong.

You are more than volunteers.

You’re the heart of Cockburn. Creating connection, lifting spirits, supporting neighbours, and shaping a community where people look out for one another.

Volunteering goes far beyond the task at hand.

It builds belonging, strengthens resilience and helps people feel part of something bigger.

Tonight is simply our way of acknowledging the generosity, dedication, and kindness you bring to your work. Cockburn is better because of you.

On behalf of the City, Elected Members and staff – thank you.

Thank you for the time you give, the energy you share, and the difference you make every single day.

I hope you enjoy the evening, and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe, healthy and happy new year.

Thank you.