

Speech by Mayor Logan K. Howlett, JP
Commemoration of Hiroshima Day
Thursday 6 August 2026
Goodchild Park, Hamilton Hill

Good morning everyone.

Thank you for joining us here at Goodchild Park.

This year marks the 81st anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, and three days later, the bombing of Nagasaki.

It is also the 41st year that the City of Cockburn has honoured this day through our annual tree planting ceremony.

Today, we join communities across Australia and around the world in remembering the lives lost, honouring the survivors, and reflecting on the importance of peace.

Before I continue, I thank the Reverend Mitchell Garlett for his Welcome to Country.

I acknowledge the Whadjuk people of the Nyungar Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather today and I pay my respects to their Elders past and present and I extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with us this morning.

I also extend a warm welcome to Consul-General of Japan, Mr Atsushi Karimata, along with our distinguished guests, elected members, representatives from our schools, teachers, students, City staff and members of our community.

For more than four decades, hundreds of trees have been planted across our city as part of this ceremony.

Many are now taller than the students who first planted them starting back in 1986.

Standing quietly in our parks each tree is a living reminder of peace, friendship and understanding.

The students here today were born many decades after the events of 1945.

Yet by planting a tree, they become part of a tradition that ensures the lessons of history are not forgotten.

As I say to the students each year have your photograph taken alongside the tree you plant today and come back and see how you have grown taller and stronger and compare it to the tree you have planted today.

In Hiroshima itself, some trees survived the atomic bombing and, against all expectation, began growing again.

They became powerful symbols that even after immense devastation, hope can endure.

Our own annual tree planting ceremonies carries that same message forward.

It also reflects the enduring friendship between Australia and Japan.

What was once shaped by conflict has, over many decades, become a relationship built on mutual respect, cooperation and understanding.

Later this morning, Consul General Mr Atsushi Karimata and I will release white doves as a symbol of peace.

Together with the trees we plant today, they remind us that remembrance is not only about honouring the past, but also about our shared commitment to a more peaceful future.

As members of Mayors for Peace, the Cities of Cockburn and Fremantle and other local governments proudly support dialogue, understanding and the peaceful resolution of conflict.

Ladies and gentlemen, and especially our young people, thank you for being here today.

May this ceremony remind us that even the smallest acts of remembrance can help build a more peaceful future.

Thank you.

Morning Tea – Gift Presentation

Good morning once again.

Before we conclude today's commemorative event, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Consul-General Mr Atsushi Karimata for joining us today.

Your presence, and the ongoing support of the Consulate-General of Japan, helps make this annual commemoration such a meaningful occasion for our community.

For more than four decades, we have gathered to remember the past while celebrating the enduring friendship that now exists between our two nations.

That friendship continues to grow through moments such as these, where communities come together in a spirit of mutual respect, understanding and peace.

On behalf of the City of Cockburn, it is my pleasure to present you with this gift as a token of our appreciation and in recognition of your continuing support of this important tradition.

Thank you once again for joining us today and thank you to everyone who has taken part in this year's commemoration.

Please continue to enjoy the morning tea and cultural activities.