

Cockburn Little Athletics Centre

Celebrating 50th Anniversary Event

Santich Park, Lake Coogee

Saturday 9 October, 2021

Good Morning ladies and gentlemen, girls and boys.

I thank the Cockburn Little Athletics Centre for their kind invitation to be here today with my wife Patricia, to officially open the 2021 – 2022 little athletics season, to fire the starter's gun for the first event, and importantly, celebrate the Centre's 50th anniversary.

The 50th anniversary milestone of any community organisation is a reflection of those initially involved, those who laid the foundation, took those first vital steps and paved the way going forward.

These achievements also reflect the volunteering efforts of many thousands of people who over the years have come together for a common purpose. On behalf of the City I congratulate each and every one of those volunteers and the athletes who made it possible.

I acknowledge the Wadjuk People of the Nyungar Nation, the Custodians of the land on which we are gathered today and I pay my respects to their Elders both past and present and I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders with us today.

I acknowledge the presence of:

- Mr David Pye, President Cockburn Centre and members of the Centre's Executive Committee;
- Affiliated Clubs in Phoenix Park, Jandakot Flyers and Yangebup Lakes and their respective officials;
- Life members;
- Event Officials;
- Coaches;
- Athletes; and
- Parent helpers; and other volunteers.

Today' gathering of Clubs reflects the on-going interest of communities all over Australia to provide avenues for children and teenagers to pursue their passions – to do the best they can as individuals; and in team events.

The recent Tokyo Olympics and Para-Olympics gave us all a timely reminder of how important sport is in our daily lives.

Greatness was achieved in so many ways from those who achieved a personal best, to those who won medals, to those who stumbled to the finish line, to those who couldn't finish their event, to those who stopped and helped other competitors; and to those who weren't able to compete for various reasons.

No matter what and where the stage is; it is the mere fact of competing that can and will inspire us all to greatness – doing our very best, achieving our personal best, being part of a team, responding to our teammates, being there when it counts – there's nothing like it.

The City of Cockburn continues to be a strong supporter of the health and well-being of our community and strives to ensure the facilities available to the Clubs in our district are the best they can be within the financial constraints that all local governments have.

The City has embarked on a major upgrade of many existing community and sporting facilities to meet the growing population over the next 15 years.

It also has a plan for new facilities across the district in that same time frame.

The formation of Athletics West brings a new dimension to athletics in Western Australia – the challenges are there for all to adapt – to contribute to the new pathway onto the world stage and all it has to offer our athletes, officials and administrators.

Just a snippet of the history of the Cockburn Little Athletics Centre.

The Cockburn Centre began in 1972 as the Fremantle Centre made up of five Clubs including Coolbellup and East Hamilton Hill.

The Centre moved several times from its original location at Fremantle Oval and then settled in the Cockburn jurisdiction at Santich Park in 1984 where it has happily prospered as the Cockburn Little Athletics Centre.

The current Centre Clubs:

Phoenix began in 1976,

Yangebup in 1984 and

Jandakot in 1993.

The Centre has produced a number of Western Australian, Australian and Olympic Champions.

In closing, good luck to each and every one of you as you strive for your personal bests and have fun with your mates when out on the track.

I now move to fire the Starter's gun to start the first event.

Thank you.