

Speech by
Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP
City of Cockburn
Volunteer Emergency Services Function
Esplanade Hotel
Friday 23 October 2020

Good evening ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the Elected Members and staff of the City of Cockburn I welcome you to the 2020 Volunteer Emergency Services Function.

Tonight's event has been significantly changed in line with COVID 19 guidelines as you will have already noticed.

That aside, it is a time to recognise and celebrate the contribution by our emergency services volunteers – to those who are here tonight and for those unable to make it.

I acknowledge the Wadjuk people of the Nyungar Nation who are the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we are gathered tonight and I pay respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

I acknowledge the presence of:

- The Honourable Joe Francis – a volunteer with the Jandakot Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade and his partner Yitka.
- My wife Patricia;
- Deputy Mayor Lara Kirkwood;
- Cllr Philip Eva JP and his wife Michele;
- Cllr. Chontelle Stone and her fiancé David;

- Clr Tom Widenbar and his wife Jessica;
- Clr Michael Separovich and his guest Shannon;
- Clr Phoebe Corke;
- **Representatives from the City of Cockburn:**
 - Mr Daniel Arndt, A/Chief Executive Officer and his partner Rachelle;
 - Ms Gail Bowman, Executive Manager, Strategy & Civic Support and her partner Andrew ;
 - Mr Michael Emery, Rangers and Community Safety Manager and his partner Shanelle;
 - Ms Teigan Reilly, Safer City Co-ordinator;
 - Mrs Vanda Bacich; Civic Functions & Building Amenities Coordinator;

Representatives from the Aboriginal Reference Group:

- Ms Heidi Mippy & her guest Roger;

Representatives from DFES:

- Mr Danny Mosconi, Chief Superintendent State Operations representing Commissioner Mr Darren Klemm & Mrs Mosconi;
- Ray Buchan, Superintendent, South Coastal Metropolitan Region & Nicky Buchan
- Andrew Spry, District Officer, Cockburn Sound & Guest;
- Aaron Higgins, Community Emergency Services Manager/Metropolitan South Coastal Operations;
- Stephen Summerton, District Officer South Coastal Region;
- Terry Wegwermer, District Officer South Coastal & his wife Tenille;
- Samantha Chaffey, Administration Officer South Coastal Region &
Justin Chaffey

Representatives from the WA Police Force

- Stephen Castledine, Senior Sergeant Murdoch Police Station & Guest;

Our Emergency Services Volunteers

- Mr Brad Brierley, Captain, South Coogee Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade;
- Mr Gavin McDiarmid, Captain, Jandakot Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade and Brigade Members and their partners;
- Mr Ian Dury, Unit Manager, Cockburn State Emergency Service, and SES members and their partners; and
- Mr Brett Barbarich, Commander, Cockburn Sea, Search & Rescue and other Members and their partners;

Even with the impact of the COVID – 19 pandemic or perhaps because of it, volunteering in Cockburn continues to grow in strength with people from all walks of life and experiences readily giving their time to make a contribution to building a better and more resilient community.

A few notable occurrences during the past twelve months include:

- The year started by the Jandakot Volunteer Bushfire Brigade welcoming the completion of their new Station;
 - The new \$1.1m+ facility includes a communications room to track volunteers' locations during deployment, plus an incident management station equipped with a Western Australian Emergency Radio Network (WAERN) equipment.
 - The new 625sqm facility replaces a 1988-built 15mx15m farm shed, enabling the brigade to securely store its 12.2 litre Bulk Water Tanker, a 3.4 litre Urban Tanker, a light tanker plus support vehicle and trailers in a purpose built 225sqm bay.
- In late January and February of 2020, the City's volunteers were deployed to New South Wales to assist with the devastating fires. Primarily being deployed to regional areas, our volunteers played a critical role in fire suppression, ultimately saving life, property and livestock.

- Locally, the Bushfire Brigades have been deployed to Balladonia, Norseman and Karnup. Assisting their sister brigades with fires threatening our rural communities.
- Cockburn SES has been active in assisting with the clean-up of many localised storms, and assisting the WA Police with missing person searches.
- A critical and often overlooked aspect of the Cockburn SES is their ongoing assistance in logistical support to our Bushfire Brigades, often responsible for driving long distances to take new fire crews to relieve exhausted bushfire volunteers and bring them safely back home.
- Cockburn Volunteer Sea Search and Rescue have assisted with a number of distress calls throughout Cockburn Sound and ongoing training to assist the ever growing population of recreational boat users.
- Through 2020, even our Emergency Service Units have had to adapt to a new way of living and working with COVID-19. Coming up with procedures to keep their team mates safe, protecting the community and juggling new personal circumstances while remaining dedicated to protecting and serving our community.

In addition, I acknowledge the strength of the City's partnerships across the emergency services sector that includes DFES, the WA Police Force and other front line services and support services.

These organisations are represented on the City's Local Emergency Management Committee that meets on a regular basis to share knowledge, local experiences and to ensure legislative compliance.

Now to the acknowledgement of our emergency services volunteers.

Each of you has served our community and the wider community with distinction and tonight we are here to acknowledge your colleagues who have achieved important service and other milestones.

I now call forward Deputy Mayor Lara Kirkwood to outline the process for presenting the service pins and other levels of recognition tonight.

Thank you.

Deputy Mayor Lara Kirkwood

Good evening ladies and gentlemen.

Given the COVID 19 guidelines the following procedure will be followed tonight.

For those members receiving their five and ten year service pins I will read out the names of each recipient and as I do could they please stand at their table.

Once I have read out their names I will ask for a round of applause and then ask for the leader of each emergency service unit to come forward and receive the envelope containing the service pins for distribution to their members from Mayor Howlett.

The names of the five year service pin recipients are:

South Coogee Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

- MARK CHARLES
- DAVID GRIFFITHS
- TERRY OSBORNE
- SING TUNG

Cockburn Volunteer Sea, Search and Rescue

- BRENDA FREEMAN

Jandakot Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

- KARL VALENTIN
- JOEL GRIFFITHS
- LUKE BROWN
- LYLE BROOKER
- DARRELL GREEN
- DAVE SCHOTT
- REAGAN WATSON

Cockburn State Emergency Service

- DARRYL BEER
- PAULUS VAN DUREN

The second category is for 10 years' service

South Coogee Volunteers Bush Fire Brigade

- EDDIE AIKEN
- BRAD BRIERLEY
- JESSE CHRISTIDIS
- ALLISON LAMB
- TOM PRICE-HOWELLS

Jandakot Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

- KARLI HICKS

Cockburn State Emergency Service

- ZOE HADDRESS
- ERICA HONEY

Can we have a round of applause for each of the recipients?

Thank you.

Can the leader of each emergency service unit now come forward and receive the envelope containing the service pins for distribution to their members from Mayor Howlett.

Thank you.

For the other service pin recipients I will read out their name and a short synopsis of their achievement and ask them to come forward and receive their service pin from Mayor Howlett.

The next group are receiving a 15 year service pin.

Cockburn Sea, Search & Rescue

Andrew Wright

Andrew joined the Cockburn Sea, Search & Rescue Group on 3 April, 2004 and worked as crew and senior skipper.

He was a deputy Commander from 2016 to 2018.

Andrew please come forward to receive your 15 year service pin from Mayor Howlett.

Jandakot Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Gavin McDiarmid

Gavin joined the Brigade at the age of 16 and held positions of member delegate, Equipment Officer, Lieutenant and now Captain.

He has had numerous deployments within and outside of Western Australia to assist in managing wildfires.

He has been a Fire Control Officer with the City of Cockburn since 2018 and assisted with the build for the new Jandakot Station with the City.

Gavin please come forward to receive your 15 year service pin from Mayor Howlett.

The next two people are receiving a 25 year Service Pin

Cockburn Volunteer Sea, Search and Rescue

Adrian Lord

Adrian joined the Cockburn Sea, Search & Rescue Group on 5 April 1995 and worked as a crew and radio operator.

He was Deputy Commander from 2001 – 2003 and is a life member of the Unit.

Adrian please come forward to receive your 25 year service pin from Mayor Howlett.

South Coogee Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Leslie Woodcock (apology)

Leslie is an apology for tonight however I will read out the information we have.

Leslie joined the South Coogee Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade in 1995 and has served as first lieutenant, Captain and Community Emergency Services Manager of Cockburn.

He oversaw the South Coogee Volunteer Bushfire Brigade move into the new Cockburn Volunteer Emergency Services Building and is a very highly respected member of the brigade.

Leslie now works at DFES.

The next person is receiving their 35 year service pin and is from the South Coogee Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Michael Ricci (apology)

Michael is an apology for tonight however I will read out the information we have.

Michael joined the South Coogee Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade in 1985 and has served as Captain twice and Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer from 2009 to 2018.

Over the years, Michael has received many medals for volunteering and trained and mentored countless other volunteers. He has been instrumental in educating the community in fire safety through visiting schools.

In 2012, Michael won the City of Cockburn's Inspirational Volunteer Award in the Community Category.

The final two people are receiving a 40 year pin.

Cockburn Sea, Search & Rescue

Michael Graham

Michael joined the Cockburn Sea, Search & Rescue on 1 September 1980. His role was a crew and senior skipper.

He was Deputy Commander from 1989 to 1994 and commander from 1994 to 2016.

He brought countless people home and is now a life member of the Unit.

Michael please come forward to receive your 40 year service pin from Mayor Howlett.

The next recipient is also receiving a forty year badge.

Keith Drayton

Keith joined the Cockburn State Emergency Service in 1980 and has held the positions of Rescue Leader as well as Unit Manager twice.

In 2012 Keith was awarded the Peter Keillor Award for Excellence and was awarded Cockburn SES Unity Member of the Year in 1995.

Keith please come forward to receive your 40 year service pin from Mayor Howlett.

The next category relates to the awarding of National Medals.

The National Medal recognises long and diligent service by members of recognised government and voluntary organisations that risk their lives or safety to protect or assist the community.

To be awarded the National Medal, each recipient must have completed 15 years of diligent service.

The following members of the Cockburn Volunteer Emergency Services are recognised here tonight:

Michael Tait

Karl Valentin

The following volunteer is recognised for his 25 years of diligent service:

Darryl Beer

The following volunteer is recognised for his 35 years of diligent service:

Robert Haddrell

Would each of you come forward to receive your National Medals from Mayor Howlett.

Ladies and gentlemen please give each of the recipients of their service pin or national medal a round of applause.

Thank you I'll now hand you back to Mayor Howlett

Thank you Deputy Mayor Kirkwood.

Before closing, there are some other important people that I must thank and that is the partners and families, for if it wasn't for your patience, (and tolerance at times,) it wouldn't be possible for the members to carry out their volunteer emergency services role in the community.

And what a great time to acknowledge their support at this thank you and recognition dinner.

In fact, it seems that the best way is for the spouses/partners and family members to join too, which is the case with many of you.

So to all the spouses/partners and families, I say thank you on behalf of the Cockburn community and those further afield.

Please join with me to thank each and every one of them.

I also acknowledge and thank Vanda Bacich for co-ordinating tonight's function.

Please join with me to thank Vanda.

Ladies and gentlemen, that is the end of the formal proceedings for tonight.

I hope that you enjoy the rest of the evening and the hospitality of the City of Cockburn - in appreciation of your time and effort given voluntarily to help others in need.

May your passion, commitment and mateship continue to shape your future contribution to the community through the provision of local emergency services for many years to come?

Thank you.