

Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett JP
National Volunteer Week Celebration Event
Administration Building
Saturday, 20 May 2023

Kaya, Wonju (Hello and Welcome)

Welcome to the City of Cockburn Volunteers who share their passion and commitment for volunteering across the wide expanse of our great City.

I acknowledge the Whadjup people of the Nyungar Nation, the Traditional Custodians on whose land we are meeting today and I pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging and I extend that respect to First Nation People with us today.

I acknowledge:

- Councillor Philip Eva JP;
- Councillor Chontelle Stone;
- Councillor Phoebe Corke;
- Councillor Tarun Dewan;
- My wife Patricia;
- Mr Daniel Arndt, A/Chief Executive Officer;
- Simone Sieber – Community Development Lead;
- Kristine Thomson – Volunteer Resource Centre Coordinator;
- Tracey Armstrong – Volunteer Resource Centre Officer;
- Amenities Staff (Kevin Muir, Ray Dorey and Rob Ducali; and
- Our amazing volunteers here today.

National Volunteer Week is Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteering and is being held from 15 - 21 May 2023.

It recognises that volunteers provide vital support to Australian communities and encourages people to volunteer.

The theme or hashtag for National Volunteer Week this year is *'We are The Change Makers - Our vision for the future will see volunteering thrive. For We are the change makers'*

Volunteering brings people together; it builds communities and creates a better society for everyone.

National Volunteer Week is a chance for all of us to celebrate and recognise the vital work of volunteers and to say thank you.

As we know, Cockburn is a vibrant and inclusive community, and its volunteers help make Cockburn the best place to be.

I encourage you to share a story of your volunteering experience this morning or at other times – to foster the ideals of volunteering and promote the concept to enrich our growing community.

I spoke to a group of year 6 students earlier this week about volunteering and how they could contribute, several of them didn't realise that they were already volunteering – which in many cases is the best way.

Ladies and gentlemen; amazingly, there are other major recognition events happening this week:

- National Road Safety Week – consider taking the PLEDGE to 'Drive So Others Survive';
- National Families Week – a time to celebrate with family and friends and share in the enjoyment of family activities within the wider community;
- Wear Orange Wednesday (WOW Day 17 May 2023 – earlier this week) – members of the community are encouraged to wear orange and take the opportunity to thank all State Emergency Services volunteers who generously give their time to help communities in times of need that may include; floods, storms and other emergencies throughout the year. and
- Did you know that the Western Australian Government (through the Department of Communities) offers opportunities for volunteers to be recognized for their efforts through three categories:
 - 25 – 49 years of volunteer service;
 - 50 – 59 years of volunteer service; and
 - Lifetime of Volunteer Service (60 or more years service).

For more information go to [WA Volunteering Service Awards web page](#).

Enjoy your day, and again, thank you for volunteering in our community – it is highly valued and appreciated by us all.

Thank you.