

**Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP**  
**Official Opening Cockburn Bowling and Recreation Facility**  
**Visko Park, 40 Birchley Road, Yangebup**  
**Saturday, 1 September, 2018**

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Kaya

Wanju, Wanju, Beeliar Boodja

Hello and welcome to the land of the Beeliar People.

I thank Marie Taylor for her 'Welcome to Country'. Marie you always paint an amazing picture of the Dreamtime story-telling and how important it is to understand, appreciate and value Mother Earth and all it has to offer us as individuals, families, communities and a Nation.

Marie, the 2018 NAIDOC Theme; 'Because of Her We Can' is a solid message about the great work that you do in our community day in and day out and we thank you for your continuing contribution.

I acknowledge the Wadjuk People of the Nyungar Nation the custodians of the land on which we are gathered and I pay respect to their Elders both past and present and extend that respect to Indigenous Australians who are with us today.

I acknowledge the presence of:

- Senator Slade Brockman, Senator for Western Australia;
- Mr Josh Wilson, MP Federal Member for Fremantle;
- The Honourable Francis Logan MLA, Member for Cockburn; Minister for Emergency Services; Corrective Services;
- Councillor Kevin Allen and his wife Debra;
- Councillor Carol Reeve-Fowkes;
- Councillor Stephen Pratt and his wife Elena;

- Councillor Philip Eva JP;
- Councillor Chontelle Sands;
- Councillor Lara Kirkwood;
- My wife Patricia;

**Representatives of the City of Cockburn's Administration:**

- Mr Stephen Cain, Chief Executive Officer;
  - Ms Gail Bowman;
  - Ms Melissa Bolland;
  - Mr Peter McCullagh;
  - Mr Doug Vickery;
  - Sandra Edgar;
  - Kathlene Koelen; and
  - Simone Sieber.
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- Mr Pat McBride, President Cockburn Bowling & Recreation Club and other members of the Executive Committee, Life Members and Members including the City of Cockburn Sports Hall of Fame Members Smiljana Jakovich and Steve Srhoy;
  - Ms Kerry Andersen, Bowls WA President;
    - Mr Wally Maker, President, Clubs WA;
    - Ms Karen Giles, Chief Executive Officer, Clubs WA;
    - **Representatives from Volley Ball WA**
      - Ian Phipps, President, Volley Ball WA;
      - Karen Wickham;

- David Smith;
- **Representatives from Area 5 Football**
  - Bryan Raeburn CEO;
  - Keri Shannon;
  - Andrew Cairns;
  - Ashleigh Raeburn;
  - Miguel Marion;
- Mr Robin Yakinthou, the Artist
- **Representatives from Crothers Construction (Builder):**
- Mr Adam Harry;
- Mr Matthew Painter; and
- Mr Paul Bagnall.
- **Representatives from Carabiner (Architect)**
- Mr Peter Giangliulio; and
- Ms Siobhan Page;
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- **Representatives from Savills Project Management**
  - Mr Graham Nash;
  - Mr David Flood;
- **Representatives from Melville Cockburn Chamber of Commerce**
  - Mr Tony Romano, President;

**Representatives from the Garbin Family – Park Named after Visko Garbin**

- Mr Eddie Garbin; and
- Mr Christian Garbin

I thank the sponsors of this facility being:

National Stronger Regions Fund Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development, and Cities and of course the City of Cockburn.

Thank you, I will return later in the program.

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Ladies and gentlemen, girls and boys.

This new state of the art facility supports a wide range of regional sporting events, functions, club activities, social activities, community activities, and commercial activities.

In order to make this \$9.5 Million regional development possible, funding was obtained from a number of sources.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the City's major funding partner, The Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities for jointly committing \$4.55 Million of National Stronger Regions grant funding to this development.

I would like to thank Area 5 Football who provided a significant contribution valued at \$400,000 by constructing the 2 Mini Football Courts with lighting.

I would also like to thank the Garbin Family for their contribution of the Visko Park land for this regional sporting and community facility. The land was originally donated by Mr Visko Garbin. It is pleasing to see the members of Mr Visko Garbin family here today on this significant occasion.

Mr Eddie Garbin who is here stated the following in a letter to me:

*"As the original owner with my father, who placed a 100 pound deposit to purchase that 10 acre block in 1950 (Lot 12. Birchley Road) I was told to leave school at the age of fourteen, to grow vegetables, when the land was cleared of heavy timber.*

*Being the eldest son of three boy's, I was not allowed to learn a trade and as a farming family it was common to hold the eldest son at home to carry on the farming tradition to work on the land as he came from a peasant village on the island of Solta from the then Yugoslavia, now Croatia.*

*Mr Garbin was one of the last original settlers of the Cockburn District. He single-handedly cleared the land with an axe and shovel using the occasional stick of dynamite for the larger tree stumps.*

*Mr Garbin was a quarryman before buying the land and turning it into a productive market garden.”*

Again, thank you to the Garbin family for being here today.

Turning our attention to the new facility.

The new building includes the following spaces:

- 2 synthetic bowling greens (one covered) including lighting and spectator shelters
- 2 mini football/futsal pitches including lighting
- 4 beach volleyball courts including lighting and spectator seating
- The Community and Sporting Club building includes:
  - Commercial Kitchen
  - Members Lounge/ Dining and Bar area
  - Darts area
  - Large multi-purpose function room available for hire to the community
  - Meeting room
  - Change rooms, and toilets
  - Storage Facilities
  - First Aid Room
  - 3 Offices for sporting clubs
  - Storage facilities
  - Fenced children’s play area
  - Grassed area with playground
- Landscaped carpark (160 bays)

After many years of planning this project has resulted in the successful relocation of the current Cockburn Bowling and Recreational Club from its 51-year-old premises in Spearwood to this new well located regional facility.

The President, Mr Pat McBride and the Bowling Club Executive are to be congratulated for their commendable effort in assisting with the design of the building, the relocation, and growth of the Club.

This commitment has already resulted in an increase of membership from 350 to over 1500 members in the first few weeks of operation.

Clubs WA and Bowls WA should also be acknowledged for their assistance in the Cockburn Bowling Club's transition to the new facility.

Area 5 Football will also be the provider of the mini football sporting opportunities within the facility for people of all ages to enjoy.

Volleyball WA will be instrumental in managing the public access to the 4 Beach Volleyball courts and will also support the development of a new local Beach Volleyball club.

I would also like to acknowledge the following people and organisations for their significant contribution to the Cockburn Bowling and Recreation Facility building project:

Mr Graham Nash and Mr David Flood from Savills for their Project Management Services.

Ms Siobhan Page and Peter Giangliulo from Carbiners- for their Architectural Services.

Mr Adam Harry, Mr Matthew Painter, and Mr Paul Bagnall from Crothers Construction - as the builder for the project.

Mr Bryan Raeburn and Mr Miguel Maron from Area 5 Football- for the construction of the 2 mini football courts.

City of Cockburn staff - Gail Bowman, Peter McCullagh, Melissa Bolland and Kathleen Koelen- Responsible for key aspects of the planning and delivery of the project.

Mr Robin Yakinthou – The Artist, for his integration of the new sporting activities with the re-location of the historic Cockburn Bowling and Recreational Club in the artwork.

I acknowledge the many sub-consultants for their work in the design and construction of this facility which created many local employment opportunities.

The opening of this facility provides a significant range of sporting and community opportunities for Cockburn residents to enjoy for many years to come.

I now have great pleasure in asking Senator Brockman to join me in the unveiling of the plaque to officially open the Cockburn Bowling and Recreation facility?

Thank you.