

## **Pioneer's Luncheon 2014**

Good afternoon and welcome to the City of Cockburn's 2014 Pioneer's Luncheon.

As you are aware the event is held at this time of the year leading up to what is now referred to as WA Day.

It is an occasion for the City to acknowledge and celebrate the contribution made by long term residents to the growth, development and status of our City; one of the most progressive local governments in Australia.

I acknowledge the Nyungar people who are the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we have gathered today and I pay respect to the Elders of the Nyungar Nation, both past and present and acknowledge indigenous Australians who are present.

I acknowledge the presence of:

- The Honourable Melissa Parke, MP, Federal Member for Fremantle;
- The Honourable Francis Logan, MLA, Member for Cockburn;
- Mr Peter Tinley, AM MLA, Member for Willagee;
- Ms Simone McGurk, MLA, Member for Fremantle; and
- Mr Don Miguel OAM JP Freeman and his wife June.

### **Councillors:**

- Deputy Mayor Carol Reeve-Fowkes and her husband Martin;
- Councillor Bart Houwen and his wife Wilhelmina;
- Councillor Kevin Allen;
- Councillor Steve Portelli;

- Councillor Yaz Mubarakai
- my wife Patricia;

## **The City's Executive Group**

- Mr Stephen Cain, Chief Executive Officer;
- Mr Don Green, Director Administration & Community Services;
- Mr Daniel Arndt, Director Planning and Development;
- Mr Stuart Downing, Director Finance & Corporate Services; and
- Mr Michael Littleton, Director Engineering & Works.
- Former Councillors of our City of which there are a number here today – I would ask them to stand together with former Chief Executive Officers Mr Tony Armarego and Mr Rod Brown.

Today's event has been co-ordinated by Mrs Vanda Bacich and I would ask that you join with me in acknowledging Vanda's great work and the presentation of the venue today.

Thank you Vanda!

Can we also thank the volunteers in the kitchen and those who are waiting on the tables today for the effort they have gone to too ensure we will enjoy ourselves?

The Pioneers Luncheons were introduced by former President of the then Shire of Cockburn, Councillor Alan Thomas in 1971.

Since then the descendants of pioneering families of the district have come together on this very special day to reflect on days gone by, to share a story or two, to foster lifelong friendships and to remember our 'absent' friends since we last met.

The values of hard work, honesty, mateship and commitment are those that have made Cockburn such a great places to live, to raise a family, to work, to operate a small business and to those seeking to invest in our community.

These values are considered when the announcement of the Cockburn Citizen of the Year Award is made each year.

Last year, we announced two recipients of the Award, Mr Len Mihaljevich and Mr Vince Favazzo.

The announcement of the 2014 recipient will be made later this afternoon.

On behalf of elected members, staff and the Cockburn community, I thank you for your contribution to ensuring that Cockburn continues to grow in a sustainable manner and that it maintains its position at the forefront of local government in Western Australia.

I thank each and every one of you for being here today and wish you good health and happiness for the future.

We have a number of special announcements:

## **Special Announcements**

- Jack Bavich will be 92 in August, Jack was born in Gerald Street, Spearwood and still lives there now;
- Mrs June Miguel turned 80 on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May.
- Mrs Neda Jakovcevic celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday earlier this year at the Dalmatinac Club with family & friends and her great niece Zina who travelled from Sydney for the occasion.
- Mrs Angeka Prka also celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday earlier this year with family and friends at the Dalmatinac Club.

On a sad note we said farewell to a number of our community members during the year.

As we remember them and their contribution to Cockburn can I ask you to observe one minute's silence?

May they rest in peace?

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Ladies and Gentlemen

I have great pleasure in announcing the 2014 Cockburn Citizen of the Year Award.

The recipient joins a distinguished list of people from across our community who have made a significant contribution to ensuring that Cockburn is such a great place to live, work, visit, invest, operate a small business and to raise a family.

Please join with me in welcoming Mrs Frances Bucat to the stage.

Francis has contributed untold hours of support to the local parish and its members. Frances and her husband Kevin, organised and operated a fresh produce stall at the St Jerome's Church Fete which was a huge success thanks to their hours of toil and diligence.

Frances is known for her wonderful community spirit which is shown through her daily volunteering and the way she is always first to lend a hand to anyone in need of compassion and support. She is an asset to Cockburn and we thank Frances for being such a valuable citizen of the City of Cockburn.

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Lady and gentlemen, as in past years I ask those of you who were at the inaugural Pioneers lunch in 1971 to come forward for a photograph?

Ladies and gentlemen that concludes the formalities; please enjoy the remainder of the afternoon.