

Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP
Hiroshima Day Commemorative Service
6 August 2021 at Bishop Park, Spearwood

Good Morning. I extend a warm welcome to everyone who has gathered here in commemoration of Hiroshima Day.

The 6th and 9th of August this year mark the 76th anniversaries of the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

It also marks the 36th anniversary that the City of Cockburn has commemorated Hiroshima Day.

Today we join others across Australia and around the world remembering the victims and survivors of these attacks.

I thank Brett Collard for his 'Welcome to Country'. Brett, as always, you delivered a heartfelt message that unites us all in harmony and respect for all that we do to build this great nation of ours going forward.

The more we learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their heritage, culture and customs, the richer we become as people.

I acknowledge the Wadjuk People of the Nyungar Nation who are the traditional custodians of the land that we are gathered on this morning and I pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging and I extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are present today.

I formally acknowledge and welcome:

- Mr Josh Wilson MP, Federal Member for Fremantle, Shadow Assistant Minister for the Environment;
- The Hon. Stephen Pratt MLC, Member for South Metropolitan Region;
- The Hon. Dr Brad Pettitt MLC Member for South Metropolitan Region;
- Mr Toru Suzuki, Consul-General of Japan;
- Mr Atsushi Matsuo, Consul and Head of Information & Culture Section;
- Mr Matt Onishi, Director Hyogo Centre;
- Ms Melissa Luyke, Deputy Director Hyogo Centre;
- My wife Patricia;
- Mr Adrian Glamorgan- Mayors for Peace;
- Ms Elizabeth Po- Mayors for Peace;
- Deputy Mayor Andrew Sullivan, City of Fremantle;
- Councillor Jenny Archibald – City of Fremantle;
- Mrs Nola Waters (former Deputy Mayor and Councillor);
- Mrs Loris Argentino (former Councillor);
- Ms Gail Bowman, Chief of Community Services & our MC today;
- Mr Don Green, Acting Executive Manager Governance & Strategy;

- Mr Daniel Arndt, Chief of Built & Natural Environment;
- Mr Anton Lees, Chief of Operations;
- Ms Sam Seymour-Eyles, Acting Executive Corporate Affairs;
- City of Cockburn Staff with particular reference to Sandy Edgar who has co-ordinated today's Commemorative Service;
- Mr Brett Collard, Nyungar Elder;
- Principals, Teachers, Parents and Students from across the Fremantle Education District;
- Members of the City's Parks & Gardens Staff who have selected the trees and prepared the planting locations; and
- Members of the community with us today;

Today is the 36th occasion that the City has been involved in commemorating Hiroshima Day.

Peace Park located on Spearwood Avenue, Spearwood was the first location used to commemorate Hiroshima Day.

Former councillor and the first woman deputy mayor on the Cockburn Council in Nola Waters was involved in making that inaugural decision in July 1986 and is with us today.

For those of you that are familiar with Peace Park it is fully planted with trees in 1990.

Since then parks across the City have been used for the ceremony.

Importantly, Peace Park forms part of what is referred to as 'Friendship Way' reflecting the City's indigenous heritage and culture, its involvement in international relationships through sister city arrangements, a memorial to those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and Peace Park itself.

The hundreds of trees planted across our community in those 35 years by representatives of the Japanese Consulate in Perth, members of our Council and students from across our district continue to flourish.

They symbolise the strength of our friendship with Japan and its people and reflect the nature of our growing relationship as we reach out in terms of trade, education, tourism and cultural exchange.

There is a healthy and developing exchange of students from a number of our schools in the district and those in Japan that nurtures international relations and provides the opportunity to experience firsthand all that each country has to offer.

Today's commemorative service provides us all with the opportunity to learn from each other - to share in a moment of reflection, of times past, of a people and its nation impacted by nuclear warfare – a world impacted by the aftermath – of generations of young people asking why – of trees being planted by children as a mark of respect and remembrance – and just as those trees grow tall and reach for

the stars so we support our children as they too grow and aspire to take up leadership roles and to become the mums and dads of our future generations.

It is important for all of us to know and understand the circumstances of the bombings that occurred.

Hiroshima and then three days later the bombing of Nagasaki – both are grim reminders of the destructive power of nuclear weapons and the impact they can have on individuals, families, communities and nations.

The Cities of Fremantle and Cockburn are members of the Mayor's for Peace worldwide movement and fully support the need for World Peace and how we as a nation can contribute to the wider understanding of resolving conflicts in a peaceful manner as opposed to lives being lost, infrastructure being destroyed and communities left devastated for generations.

In closing, I announce that at the Council meeting scheduled for Thursday 12 August 2021 consideration will be given to officially enter into a sister city arrangement with a city in Japan.

Ladies and gentlemen, girls and boys I trust today's commemorative event will stay in your memory for years to come.

Thank you!