

Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP

Anne John-Aitken Book Launch

'Incredible Memories'

Spearwood Library

Saturday, 28 November 2020

Kia, Wonju.

Hello and welcome to today's very special event; the launch of Anne John-Aitken's memoir 'Incredible Memories'.

I acknowledge the Whadjup people of the Nyungar nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet today and I pay my respect to their Elders past, present and emerging and I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who may be with us today.

I acknowledge the presence of:

- Anne John-Aitken and her family and friends;
- My wife Patricia;
- Members of the Cockburn Libraries; and
- Members of the community.

Patricia and I have known Anne and many of her family for a long time and I was delighted when Anne invited me to launch her newly updated memoir; 'Incredible Memories'.

Anne and I spent several years together as members of the Tapestry Writers Group where we put pen to paper on a variety of topics – publishing several short stories about our individual life experiences, the history of Cockburn and other general topics.

It was a great collegiate experience for me under the auspices of then Adult Services Librarian Luba Kambourakis.

Of course life moves on and the Tapestry Writers Group is no more.

As many of us know Libraries are amongst other things a meeting place, a place of learning, of social interaction, accessing information via computers, books and other publications, researching, a wide variety of events for people of all ages, story time and so much more.

Anne's contribution to our community cannot be underestimated nor can her commitment to producing short stories and of course the reason why we are here today – a substantial publication which initially consisted of two individual publications which have now morphed

in to today's book.

I personally believe it is important to put together your memoirs as it provides an account of your journey through life – the ups and downs, the challenges and opportunities, the people you meet on the way and how they influence you and of course the achievements.

Memoirs also provide your family and friends and the wider community with a legacy that they can read, share their thoughts and reflect on how it can be that they are part of this unique family/community.

A common saying is that when someone passes it is likened to a library burning down – so encourage everyone you know to put pen to paper.

I know the Historical Society of Cockburn has an on-going commitment to encourage families to submit memoirs, photographs etc to add to the history of the district.

Anne, I thank you for the diligence you have applied to producing 'Incredible Memories' – I note you have dedicated the memoirs to your five children and six grandchildren with the notation:

"I hope you enjoy reading tales of my younger days. I have enjoyed living my life and tried to grasp as many experiences as possible, or those which presented themselves.

Life is as beautiful as one wants it to be. Far too short to fit all one's ambitions. So I will enjoy it while I can while it includes my wonderful family."

Your loving Mum, Nonna.

Chapters 1 to 67 each with their own unique title inviting the reader to indulge in just one more chapter.

That in itself speaks volumes – Anne thank you for inviting me to launch your memoirs – thank you for putting pen to paper – thank you for your persistence and the legacy that you have left for all to absorb, particularly your family.

Having said that I am delighted to officially launch 'Incredible Memories by Anne Aitken-John.

Thank you.

Book Launch with Mayor

Logan Howlett

Join Anne John-Aitken as she recounts her remarkable life in her newly updated memoir *Incredible Memories*.

Born in Haiti in 1929, Anne spent her childhood in the West Indies before moving to England where she served in the British Women's Royal Navy Service (WREN). After serving, Anne emigrated to Fremantle in 1968 with her husband and five children.

In 1980 Anne set off around Australia in a converted truck. Hear her retell her many colourful escapades with warmth and humour.