

## Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP, City of Cockburn

### Smart Park Commemorative Plaque Unveiling

Sunday 5 March 2017

---

Good Afternoon ladies and gentlemen

Welcome to the commemorative plaque unveiling in this wonderful setting of Smart Park. The Park was dedicated to the Smart Family in 1992. The family has lived in the district for over 125 years.

I acknowledge the Whadjuk People of the Nyungar Nation, the Custodians of the Land on which we are gathered. I pay respect to their Elders, both past and present and extend that respect to Indigenous Australians who may be with us.

I acknowledge:

- Councillor Lyndsey Sweetman;
- Councillor Philip Eva JP and his wife Michele;
- Councillor Bart Houwen;
- My wife Patricia;
- Mr Charles Sullivan, Director Engineering & Works, City of Cockburn;
- Representatives of market gardening individuals and families that lived, and in some cases, still live in this locality and who have made an enduring contribution to:
  - their individual business activities;
  - supported their neighbours;
  - invested in their communities; and
  - who along with others laid the foundations for what Cockburn is today.

Sometimes it seems surreal that market gardens, flower gardens, vineyards, orchards, dairies and piggeries once dominated the landscape of Spearwood and Hamilton Hill.

In those days life was considered to be relatively simple, toiling the soil seven days a week, preparing for the next planting season, harvesting the produce, dealing with fluctuations in weather, clearing more land when it was needed, helping neighbours and sharing the joys and tribulations of being a pioneer.

I well remember in 2009 ringing for a taxi after a function in Spearwood only to have the operator say, "Sorry Sir, but we don't come out to the sticks."

Times have changed; however we can all reflect back on the past, share a story or two, knowing that in many different ways the foundations for what Cockburn is today can be readily traced to a place and time. Smart Park and its locality is one of those.

Ladies and gentlemen, girls and boys today is one of those occasions where we can acknowledge those contributions by individuals and families who live in Barrington Street and its vicinities.

The following names are forever engraved on the plaque that I will unveil shortly.

They are:

- Tom Antulov;
- Marin Erceg;
- Ross Italiano;
- Steve Juricev;
- Vid Marinovich;
- Yure Ravlich;
- Marko Rokich;
- Kris Roncevich;
- Stipan Srhoy; and
- Screcko Sumich

Each and every name personifies the individuals and families who established themselves in a locality that was far from populated areas,

lacking in scheme water, electricity, sewerage and drainage, and the general comforts of life one would expect.

These market gardens supplied produce for the passenger liners as well as the metropolitan and export markets. The produce was of the highest quality and reflected the values that each brought to their work and to their community.

In closing I thank:

- Councillor Philip Eva, JP for engaging with the families associated with the concept of a plaque to commemorate the pioneer families and individuals who established and farmed market gardens along Barrington Road from 1940 until 1986;
- Mr Charles Sullivan, Director Engineering & Works and Ms Julie Reidy, Parks Technical Officer for their contribution to the process of getting the plaque completed and the associated logistics;
- Mr Tony and Mrs Margaret Ravlich for organising the photographs for the plaque;
- The individuals and families who readily became involved and shared their experiences;
- Mr Albert De Bore, Forever Shining for the manufacture of the plaque itself; and
- Marie La Frenais and Alex Corinaldesi for preparing arrangements for today.

I have great pleasure in unveiling this commemorative plaque in recognition of those people who played an important and active part in the growth of the City of Cockburn.

May this plaque serve as a reminder of all who view it of the individuals and families that defined this locality, established enduring life-long friendships and raised families who have themselves gone on to establish their own identity and place in Cockburn's history.

Thank you.

