



# Media Release

8 August 2017

## **Cockburn celebrates Hiroshima Day for 32<sup>nd</sup> year**

The City of Cockburn commemorated Hiroshima Day for the 32<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year on 4 August, with a symbolic release of white doves at Botany Park.

The white doves were released by Mayor Logan Howlett and Consulate-General of Japan in Perth, Tatsuo Hirayama, before the men joined children from across the Fremantle Education District to plant elm trees at the Hammond Park public open space.

Mayor Howlett said hundreds of trees planted across the City in the past 32 years by representatives of the Japanese Consulate in Perth, members of council and local students continued 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,” Mayor Howlett said.

Also present at the event were Freeman of the City and former Cockburn Mayor, Don Miguel OAM JP, and former Cockburn councillor Nola Waters who were responsible for the 1986 council decision to begin an annual commemoration of Hiroshima Day around 6 August each year.

Mayor Howlett is a member of the worldwide Mayors for Peace movement which was established in 1982 by then Mayor of Hiroshima, Takeshi Araki, to promote world peace and support the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Following the tree-planting, the City hosted morning tea, a reading of *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* by students from Spearwood Alternative School and origami-making lessons.

The white doves – homing pigeons from Kelmscott – flew above proceedings before turning east and back into the arms of their owner Marcel Mak, President of the Armadale-Kelmscott Pigeon Racing Club.



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