

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen

The Indigenous people of the south west of Western Australia, the Nyungar people, journeyed across the land where the City of Cockburn's 6.5 kilometre 'Friendship Way' now weaves its way from residential settings through to the sparkling crystal clear waters of Cockburn Sound.

Their journey reflected the connectivity of the local tribes and their culture and heritage that has been handed down through generations of storytelling, paintings and drawings.

Today, the Friendship Way master plan provides that connectivity and knowledge sharing in a different way.

It provides a link with the past, present and our future aspirations as a progressive and inclusive community.

It is a concept that has evolved using public art and landscaping to enhance and celebrate the built and natural environments, to reflect our culture and heritage, and to promote the

spirit and cultural diversity that reflects our Sister City partnerships.

The \$11.6M artistic component of Friendship Way encompass five stages; Indigenous, Mobile (USA), Split (Croatia), Yueyang (China) and the concept of Peace. Development of a proposed sixth “Australian” is planned.

Indigenous

The Nyungar theme promotes reconciliation and harmony. Designed by Nyungar artists Sharyn Egan and Darran Stockwell the artwork called “Elements” represents the four elements of fire, earth, wind and water.

Existing grass trees are being enhanced with additional plantings of native shrubs. The entrance to this section will include a welcome wall featuring the Beeliar Bobtail Lizard and a Nyungar ‘welcome’. The opposite end will feature a large ghostly smoke sculpture.

Mobile (USA)

The Mobile section draws on our maritime history where the common link of Captain James Stirling who evacuated British troops from mobile during the 1812 war between Britain and the US and who in 1829 was involved in establishing the Swan River colony.

The modern day industrial links between the Cities of Mobile and Cockburn is reflected in their prominent ship building industries.

The welcome wall surrounded by native ground covering is themed around the Mardi Gras, as the City of Mobile has been the home of Mardi Gras since 1703.

I am hoping our City's current delegation will receive a traditional Mobile welcome whereby you raise your glass and proclaim 'Let the good times roll' - a greeting spelt out in naval signal flags on the welcome wall adjacent to an impressive 12 metre artwork, "Cardinal South" marker that commands a prominent position overlooking Cockburn Sound.

Plantings of Morton Bay Figs and Tuart woodlands together with yellow and purple flowering plants and the use of yellow and purple banners provide further links to Mobile.

Split, Croatia

The Croatian section draws on market gardening and the strong tradition of hospitality of the City's Croatian community as the central theme.

The entrance contains three gold leopard busts on limestone blocks topped with terracotta tiles in recognition of the Diocletian's seal, as seen on the modern Croatian flag.

Decorative cultivation themed coloured poles and decorative lettering on the welcome wall enhances the Croatian theme.

The most prominent feature of this stage is the embankments where low post and wire fencing planted with grapevines on a checker

board of red and silver mulch carpet the road verge.

A planting of incense cedars along the embankment recalls the landscape of the Dalmatian coast while plantings of decorative fruit trees along the footpath pays homage to the influence of Croatian settlers on the local horticultural industry.

Yueyang, China

The Yueyang section of Friendship Way is a newly constructed section. It is aimed at creating a sense of grandeur befitting a city of the size and cultural importance of Yueyang.

The verges are lined with formal avenues of Catalpa trees, these highly decorative trees grow locally in Yueyang and are highly prized for their timber.

Along the centre of much of the Yueyang section is a 6m wide median strip planted with a 'red carpet' of dwarf oleander flowers. This planting strategy emphasises the width of the

two carriageways combined and recalls the scale and grandeur of China.

At either end of this section of Friendship Way, large granite lions are placed to announce to travellers that they are entering and leaving this section of Friendship Way.

These lions have traditionally been placed as a pair at the entrance to important and official buildings across China.

The lions are placed on hills of earth planted with gardenias – the gardenia is the ‘official’ flower of Yueyang. Giant bamboos and hibiscus bushes create a fitting frame and backdrop to the statues.

The Yueyang section includes a ‘welcome’ wall with the word ‘welcome’ written on it in Mandarin and a mural depicting many of the cultural aspects of Yueyang.

Peace (the concept of)

Peace Park is another defining part of the journey along Friendship Way and reflects the City's recognition of Hiroshima Day where services have been held in the presence of the Japanese Consul General for over 20 years.

On the day, school students from across the District participate in tree planting ceremonies. This activity is followed by morning tea and the sharing by students of their understanding of the impact the war had on the citizens of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Paper Cranes, a sign of peace are made by the students, packaged and forwarded to the Mayor of Hiroshima.

The City is a member of the Mayors for Peace, acknowledging the worldwide movement towards nuclear disarmament.

Immediately opposite in RSL Park is a monument that symbolises the ultimate sacrifice that one can make for their country.

A recently completed 'Field of Poppies' is a poignant reminder of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice and ensures that the ANZAC spirit continues to burn for all those who seek to serve their country in war or peacekeeping efforts.

Over 1,000 school students attend the ANZAC school parade and service at this monument. Lest we Forget.

Future plans for 2014 and beyond include an ANZAC – Hiroshima memorial and a memorial to remember post WWII conflict.

This will tie in with the Centenary of ANZAC.

So you can see, Friendship Way is an integral part of our City's journey to promote, educate, inform and engage our community and the many thousands of commuters who journey along its length each day.

It acknowledges Cockburn traditions of hard work, honesty and integrity, family values and sense of community and their passion for music, song, dance, good food and of course, fine wine.

It is truly an epic journey. One of discovery, understanding, sharing, trust, respect, inclusiveness, and importantly, showcasing our City's culture and heritage and our sister city partnerships.

From the 2011 Perth Royal Show 'themed' for Croatia, to the ISAF World Sailing Championships to determine Olympic selection off our coast, to our funding of a Croatian water polo team to compete in Perth in December, to indulging in Croatian Food Festivals in Fremantle, to our attendance at the 2010 World Trade Fair in Shanghai, Banquets with the Mayor of the City of Yueyang and those heading up State Corporations, Tea ceremonies, to witnessing the Australian Prime Minister signing contracts for navy vessels to be built in Cockburn and Mobile, to our 'themed' Spring Fairs in our community that attract thousands

of visitors, to developing strong professional and business ties with our sister cities through their Ambassadors, Consuls General and Consuls; our commitment is unparalleled.

Friendship Way is a compelling story that reflects the values that has made Cockburn such a great place to live, work, visit and invest.

And as the sun sets over Friendship Way and slips below the horizon in Cockburn Sound I am proud to say that I am one of nearly one hundred thousand people who call Cockburn home.

Thank you.