

Hiroshima Day Address

by

Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP

At

Dixon Reserve, Hertford Place, Hamilton Hill

9.30 am, Friday 5 August 2016

Good Morning.

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

I thank Marie Taylor for her 'Welcome to Country'.

Marie, as always, you have 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 both past and present and I extend that respect to other Indigenous Australians who are present.

I formally acknowledge and welcome:

- Acting Consul-General, Mr Toshio Ida, Consulate-General of Japan, Perth and other representatives from the Consulate-General of Japan, Perth here today:

- Mr Hideo Shinozuka, Consul and Head of the Information and Culture Section; and
- Ms Sumra Salem, Information & Culture Section;
- Marie Taylor; Nyungar Elder;
- The Honourable Josh Wilson MP, Member for Fremantle;
- Dr Brad Pettitt, Mayor, City of Fremantle;
- Councillor Chamonix Terblanche;
- Mr Stephen Cain, Chief Executive Officer, City of Cockburn and members of the Executive Group and other staff; with particular reference to Sandra Edgar who has co-ordinated today's Commemorative Service;
- Members of the City's Parks & Gardens Staff who have selected the trees and prepared the planting location for us today;
- School Principals, Teachers, Students, Parents
- Ladies and gentlemen, one and all.

Today is the 31th occasion that the City has been involved in commemorating Hiroshima Day.

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

For those of you that are familiar with Peace Park it is fully planted with trees and the City has moved to plant trees at various parks across the City.

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.

'Friendship Way' is a unique concept that has received national recognition.

It has high visibility in our community and all who choose to travel along its 6.5 kilometre distance from Beeliar Drive to Cockburn Road

can clearly see some magnificent public artwork and aspects of the trees and plants reflecting our close connection to nature..

Friendship Way is identified in the City's Public Artworks Strategy which is guided by the "Lifestyle and Aspiration" achievement outcome of Council's Strategic Plan: *"To foster a sense of community spirit within the district generally and neighbourhoods in particular."*

The hundreds of trees planted across our community in those 31 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 first-hand all that each country has to offer.

Indeed these opportunities in all likelihood help to foster the future business leaders, community leaders, Ambassadors, Consuls General, Consuls and other diplomatic staff of our respective countries.

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.

Earlier this year the Cities of Fremantle, Subiaco and Cockburn contributed funds for a monument gifted by the Australian Indigenous community and the Mayors for Peace to symbolise Australia's desire for peace and harmony.

The sculpture titled; 'Tree of Life: Gift of Peace' was unveiled by Japanese nuclear survivors in Nagasaki Peace Park – a lasting reminder of our commitment to peace.

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

Thank you!

I now invite A/Consul General Mr Toshio Ida, Consulate-General of Japan, Perth to say a few words.

Thank you Mr Ida.

I am very honoured to receive the Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation on behalf of the City of Cockburn.

The City of Cockburn's Elected Members, Staff and the school communities of Cockburn have embraced the commemoration of Hiroshima for 31 years.

The students who attended the first commemorative service will now be over 40 years of age today and just as the students who are here in front of us now we are hopeful that they have carried forward that message of mutual understanding of achieving world peace.

Please convey our gratitude to the Japanese Foreign Minister for the Certificate of Commendation.

It will be proudly displayed in our City's Administration Building for all to see and understand our community's respect for world peace and the lasting friendship that we have established between Japan and the Cockburn community.