

Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP
On the occasion of the
Croatian Photographic Exhibition (Boris Kragic) and
Cockburn Artist Larry Mitchell's Artwork
and the acclaimed Croatian Play, 'The Doll' and
in celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Sister City
Relationship - City of Cockburn and City of Split, Croatia
Memorial Hall, Hamilton Hill
Wednesday, 25 July, 2018

Kaya

Wanju, Wanju, Beeliar Boodjah

Hello and welcome to the land of the Beeliar People.

On behalf of the elected members and staff of the City of Cockburn I welcome you to tonight's celebration of the 20th anniversary of the sister city relationship between the cities of Cockburn and Split and the associated events occurring tonight.

I acknowledge the Wadjuk People of the Nyungar Nation, the Custodians of the land on which we are gathered today and I pay respect to their Elders both past and present and extend that respect to Indigenous Australians who are with a tonight.

I acknowledge the presence of:

- His Excellency Dr. Damir Kušen, the Croatian Ambassador to Australia;
- Mr Hrvoje Petrušić, Consul General, Republic of Croatia, Sydney;

- Mr Zoran Šangut, Consul, Republic of Croatia, Perth;
- Mr Tony Krsticevic, MLA, Member for Carine;
- The Presidents of Croatian Clubs in Perth and their respective spouses;
- Mr Brian Rakich, President, Croatian Chamber of Commerce, his wife Bev and other board members;
- Deputy Mayor Lee-Anne Smith OAM;
- Councillor Philip Eva JP;
- Councillor Michael Separovich;
- My wife Patricia;
- Mr Stuart Downing, Acting Chief Executive Officer, City of Cockburn;
- Mr Don Green, Director Governance & Community Services;
- Mr Daniel Arndt, Director Planning & Development;
- Ms Cassandra Cooper, Cultural Development Co-ordinator;
- Mr Larry Mitchell, local Cockburn artist;
- Krispin Maesalu, President PhoenixTheatre;
- Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

I am delighted to be here tonight to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the City's sister city relationship with Split, Croatia, which was established on 6 July 1998 with so many diplomatic, business and other community members.

The establishment of the sister city relationship was strongly supported by the then Council led by the late former mayor, John Grljusich and I am pleased to acknowledge one former councillor in the room tonight in Marinko Pecotic who together with myself were on Council at that time and who were strong advocates for the sister city arrangements.

In particular, Marinko Pecotic was a passionate advocate for the sister city relationship to proceed given the Croatian community had long been major influencers in the development of Western Australia; and particularly in the Perth metropolitan area; including Fremantle and Cockburn.

In fact, the first Croatian to arrive in Western Australia was nearly 160 years ago.

I also acknowledge Mr Don Green, Director Governance & Community Services who played a significant role in the development of the sister city relationship.

Since the establishment of the sister city relationship there has been a number of delegations received at Cockburn as well as reciprocal visits to Split.

During this time there have strong bonds of friendship established with elected officials and members of staff.

Ladies and gentlemen, the evening will commence with the opening of an exhibition by world renowned Croatian photographer Boris Kragic with his series of photographs featuring the City of Split.

Exhibiting alongside Boris Kragic photographs will be respected Western Australian artist and Cockburn resident Larry Mitchell with his series of paintings depicting Spearwood in the 1980's.

I thank Larry Mitchell for allowing the City to exhibit some of his paintings that depict the important pictorial history these works convey **prior** to the major housing developments that now dot the landscape as a reminder of what once was, and how important the market gardening was to our community, and the many Croatian families who with other nationalities lived and worked the land and from these early beginnings the many Croatian families we still have living in the area.

In closing, I thank Cassandra Cooper, Cultural Development Co-ordinator, City of Cockburn and Ida Gamulin, Consul, Republic of Croatia Consulate, Perth for the work they have put in to present the photographic exhibition and display of works from Larry Mitchell.

I also thank Sandra Edgar from the City for her assistance tonight.

I now have great pleasure in officially declaring open the photographic display by Boris Kragic and the art display by Larry Mitchell.

Please continue to enjoy the food and refreshments.

An announcement to move through to the theatre will be made around 6.50pm to view the Croatian stage production; 'The Doll'.

Thank you.