

Speech by
Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP
City of Cockburn
Volunteer Emergency Services Function
Esplanade Hotel
Friday 23 October 2020

Good evening ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the Elected Members and staff of the City of Cockburn I welcome you to the 2020 Volunteer Emergency Services Function.

Tonight's event has been significantly changed in line with COVID 19 guidelines as you will have already noticed.

I acknowledge the Wadjuk people of the Nyungar Nation who are the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we are gathered tonight and I pay respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

I acknowledge the presence of:

- The Honourable Joe Francis – a volunteer with the Jandakot Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade;
- My wife Patricia;
- Deputy Mayor Lara Kirkwood;
- Cllr Philip Eva JP and his wife Michele;
- Cllr. Chontelle Stone and her fiancé David;
- Cllr Tom Widenbar and his wife Jessica;
- Cllr Kevin Allen and his wife Debra;
- Cllr Michael Separovich;
- Cllr Phoebe Corke;

- **Representatives from the City of Cockburn:**

- Mr Daniel Arndt, A/Chief Executive Officer and his partner Rachelle Quintner;
- Ms Gail Bowman, Executive Manager, Strategy & Civic Support and Andrew Harwood;
- Mr Michael Emery, Rangers and Community Safety Manager and his partner Shanelle Cassir;
- Ms Teigan Reilly, Safer City Co-ordinator and guest;
- Mrs Vanda Bacich; Civic Support Officer and her husband Ivan;

Representatives from the Aboriginal Reference Group:

- Heidi Mippy & Guest

Representatives from DFES:

- Mr Danny Mosconi, Chief Superintendent State Operations representing Commissioner Mr Darren Klemm & Mrs Mosconi;
- Ray Buchan, Superintendent, South Coastal Metropolitan Region & Nicky Buchan
- Andrew Spry, District Officer, Cockburn Sound & Guest;
- Aaron Higgins, Community Emergency Services Manager/Metropolitan South Coastal Operations;
- Stephen Summerton, District Officer South Coastal Region;
- Terry Wegwermer, District Officer South Coastal & his wife Tenille;
- Samantha Chaffey, Admin Officer South Coastal Region & Justin Chaffey

Representatives from the WA Police Force

- Stephen Castledine, Senior Sergeant Murdoch Police Station & Guest

Our Emergency Services Volunteers

- Mr Brad Brierley, Captain, South Coogee Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
- Mr Gavin McDiarmid, Captain, Jandakot Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade and his wife Amy and Brigade Members and their partners;
- Mr Ian Dury, Unit Manager, Cockburn State Emergency Service, and SES members and their partners;
- Mr Brett Barbarich, Commander, Cockburn Sea, Search & Rescue and other Members and their partners;

Volunteering in Cockburn continues to grow in strength with people from all walks of life and experiences readily giving their time to make a contribution to building a better and more resilient community.

Tonight is a great example of our volunteer emergency services people coming together to be recognised for their significant contributions within our City, in the region, across the State of Western Australia and on occasions, Australia or overseas.

Tonight also provides the City with the opportunity to thank you, as members of our local emergency services, for your extremely valuable contribution to the provision of emergency services in times of natural and man-made disasters.

It also gives us the chance to acknowledge your spouses/partners for their invaluable support and acceptance of the interruption to family life that occurs from time to time.

We also record our thanks to the many employers who allow you to contribute to the protection of the community and to those of you who are self-employed for the countless hours away from your business.

Each of you has served our community and the wider community with distinction and tonight we are here to acknowledge your colleagues who have achieved important service and other milestones milestones.

I now call forward Deputy Mayor Lara Kirkwood to assist me in the presentation of the service badges to those emergency services volunteers who qualify in the different service categories and to make announcements on other levels of recognition tonight.

Thank you Deputy Mayor Kirkwood.

Before closing, there are some other important people that I must thank and that is the partners and families, for if it wasn't for your patience, (and tolerance at times,) it wouldn't be possible for the members to carry out their volunteer emergency services role in the community.

And what a great time to acknowledge their support at this thank you and recognition dinner.

In fact, it seems that the best way is for the spouses/partners and family members to join too, which is the case with many of you.

So to all the spouses/partners and families, I say thank you on behalf of the Cockburn community and those further afield.

Please join with me to thank each and every one of them.

I also acknowledge and thank Vanda Bacich for co-ordinating tonight's function.

Please join with me to thank Vanda.

Ladies and gentlemen, that is the end of the formal proceedings for tonight.

I hope that you enjoy the rest of the evening and the hospitality of the City of Cockburn - in appreciation of your time and effort given voluntarily to help others in need.

May your passion, commitment and mateship continue to shape your future contribution to the community through the provision of local emergency services for many years to come?

Before closing I bring your attention to the flower arrangements in the centre of each table.

We will leave it to each group on the table to determine who has the closest birthday to today and they will be able to take home the flower arrangement on their table.

Ladies and gentlemen

Please remember the drink safe rules and enjoy your evening.

The catering for tonight will be to your table.

Length of Service Badges

Given COVID – 19 restrictions the process for acknowledging and presenting length of service badges has been modified for this year.

I will read out the names of the recipients and the Brigade Captain or the Unit Commander will be called forward at the end to receive the badges in an envelope for distribution to their respective members.

There will be several badges presented to those emergency service volunteers with significant lengths of service ie 15 years plus.

The first category is for 5 years' service.

The recipients this year are:

South Coogee Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

- MARK CHARLES
- DAVID GRIFFITHS
- TERRY OSBORNE
- SING TUNG

Cockburn Volunteer Sea, Search and Rescue

- BRENDA FREEMAN

Jandakot Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

- KARL VALENTIN
- JOEL GRIFFITHS
- LUKE BROWN
- LYLE BROOKER
- DARRELL GREEN
- DAVE SCHOTT
- REAGAN WATSON

Cockburn State Emergency Service

- DARRYL BEER
- PAULUS VAN DUREN

The second category is for 10 years' service

South Coogee Volunteers Bush Fire Brigade

- EDDIE AIKEN
- BRAD BRIERLEY
- JESSE CHRISTIDIS
- ALLISON LAMB
- TOM PRICE-HOWELLS

Jandakot Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

- KARLI HICKS

Cockburn State Emergency Service

- ZOE HADDRESS
- ERICA HONEY

Could I now ask each of the Captains and the Unit Commanders to come forward to collect the envelopes with the service badges in to come forward?

Can we have a round of applause for each of the recipients?

I congratulate those who were the recipients of the 5 and 10 year service badges.

The next recipients have completed 15 years' service.

Cockburn Volunteer Sea, Search and Rescue

Andrew Wright

Andrew joined the Cockburn Sea, Search & Rescue on 3 April 2004. He has worked as crew and senior skipper and was deputy commander from 2016 to 2018.

Congratulations Andrew.

Jandakot Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Gavin McDiamid

Congratulations Gavin.

The next recipients have completed 25 years' service.

Cockburn Volunteer Sea, Search & Rescue

ADRIAN LORD

Adrian joined the Cockburn Volunteer Sea, Search and Rescue on 5 April 1995. His main duties were as a crew member and radio operator. He was deputy commander from 2001 – 2003 and is a life member of the unit.

Congratulations Adrian.

The next recipients have completed 40 years' service.

Cockburn Volunteer Sea, Search and Rescue

Michael Graham

Michael joined the Cockburn Sea, Search & Rescue on 1 September 1980. His role was a crew and senior skipper. He was deputy commander from 1989 to 1994 and commander from 1994 to 2016.

He brought countless people home and is a life member of the unit.

Cockburn State Emergency Service

- **KEITH DRAYTON**