

Hiroshima Day Address

by

Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP

at

Edwardes Reserve, 1 Lintott Way, Spearwood

9.30am, Monday, 6 August 2018

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:

- Consul-General Tatsuo Hirayama, Consulate-General of Japan, Perth and Mrs Sachiko Hirayama;
- Marie Taylor; Nyungar Elder;
- Deputy Mayor Lee-Anne Smith, OAM;

- My wife Patricia;
- Mr Stephen Cain, Chief Executive Officer, City of Cockburn;
- Mr Don Green, Director Governance & Community Services, City of Cockburn;
- 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 33rd 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 itself.

'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 33 years by representatives of the Japanese Consulate in Perth, members of our Council and students from across the Fremantle education 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 are grim reminders of the destructive power of nuclear weapons and the impact they have on individuals, families, communities and nations.

The Cities of Fremantle and Cockburn, together with other local governments across Australia, 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.

In 2016 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 Consul General Tatsuo Hirayama Consulate-General of Japan, Perth to say a few words.
