

**Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP
Club Recognition and Awards Night
Administration Building
Wednesday, 12 July 2023**

Thank you Ash.

Kaya, Wonju (Hello and Welcome)

I am delighted to welcome you to the City's 2023 Club Recognition and Awards Night on behalf of the Elected Members and Staff of the City of Cockburn.

The Club Recognition Program was introduced in 2020 and is an annual event that acknowledges the sporting clubs that are demonstrating excellence in club management and governance – which in turn leads to positive outcomes for our community.

I acknowledge the Whadjup people of the Nyungar Nation who are the traditional custodians of the land on which we are meeting tonight, and I pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging and I extend that respect to First Nation people who are with us.

Tonight, I am pleased to acknowledge the presence of:

- Councillor Chontelle Stone;
- My wife Patricia;
- Members of staff from the City:
 - Mr David van Ooran, Chief of Community Services;
 - Mr Andrew Tomlinson, Head of Recreation;
 - Mr Dean Burton, Manager Recreation Services;
 - Ms Steph Walding, Community Facilities Advisor;
 - Ms Claudia Wells, Club Development Officer;
 - Ms Sonia Farr, Administration Officer;
 - Mr Ben Rowe, Disability Access & Inclusion Officer;
 - Kylie Santich, Community Venues Officer; and
 - Ms Lucy Atkinson, Executive Assistant;
- Our MC for the evening - Ms Ash Nelson, Channel 10 sports journalist and former Hockeyroo;
- Mr Troy Kirkham, Executive Manager Youth, Community and Game Development with the West Australian Football Commission - our keynote speaker;
- Representatives from Sporting Clubs across our district;
- Ladies and gentlemen, one and all.

This evening is always one of excitement, intrigue, and an opportunity for the City to acknowledge and thank clubs within our district for their efforts in effectively managing their respective clubs.

With 120 plus sporting clubs in our district and most sporting codes covered there is a huge demand for volunteers to keep the wheels turning.

We owe a gratitude of thanks to the volunteers who 'step up' to support a club or in some cases more than one.

By doing so, they provide the opportunity for those who enjoy the chance to:

- learn new skills,
- develop knowledge of the rules,
- understand and respect the decisions of the referee or umpire,
- make new friends;
- maintain a fitness level that ensures a healthy lifestyle; and
- importantly, particularly for children, being out in the open air and away from the keyboard.

Cockburn has one of the highest rates of volunteering of any community – I know the migrants who came to our shores were seeking a place to

- raise a family in a relative safety,
- to provide for the education of their children; and
- to contribute to the growth of their community.

They created the strong foundations for what I regularly refer to as; the true Cockburn traditions that have seen our district grow into a rich, diverse and inclusive multicultural community.

On behalf of the Council and staff I move and vote of thanks to each and every one of you, the parents, families, sponsors and supporters of what are the successes of a grassroots support base that ensures the growth and development of sporting clubs in our district – your efforts make sport accessible for people of all walks of life.

I congratulate the finalists in the Club Recognition Program for their commitment to excellent club management, which helps to ensure the retention of members and overall club sustainability.

We'll soon hear some of the engaging stories as the 2023 winners are announced.

A couple of shout outs before I close:

Pat and I were guests of the Stephen Michael Foundation at Fremantle Oval last Saturday during the NAIDOC Round; South Fremantle v Claremont.

The guernsey worn by the South Fremantle team was designed by Darryl Bellotti, a member of Cockburn's Youth Services team.

It brought high accolades and the storyline associated with the design explained by Darryl literally brought the guernsey to life.

Darryl regularly contributes to the design work where he is commissioned – an outstanding artist.

The WAFL women's grand final is being played at Mineral Resources Park this weekend – Claremont v East Fremantle.

Steph Walding, Community Facilities Advisor at the City of Cockburn is the East Fremantle Women's Head Coach and Alex Williams, Venues Officer is their Development Coach – good luck to your team on the weekend Steph and Alex.

Two great examples of inspiration and leadership amongst our staff.

Ladies and gentlemen, please absorb the atmosphere in the room tonight, network with the representatives from the various sporting codes and reach out to our MC Ash and guest speaker Troy.

Thank you.