

Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP
Fremantle Football Club/City of Cockburn Immersion Event
Victor Kailis Oval
Monday 24 June 2024

Kaya Wanju (hello and welcome)

Welcome to the Fremantle Football Club and the City of Cockburn Cultural Immersion Event.

Today is a great opportunity for us all to learn more about Aboriginal culture and how we can learn from the longest surviving civilisation on Earth.

Our thanks for our Aboriginal Reference Group Chair Mitchell Garlett for his 'Welcome to Country' and his sharing of the culture, heritage, storytelling and language that inspires us to reach out for more information and involvement as we walk shoulder to shoulder on the path to reconciliation.

I acknowledge the Whadjuk people of the Nyungar nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which we have gathered, and I pay respect to their Elders past and present and I extend that respect to First Nations people who are with us today.

I acknowledge:

- My wife Patricia;
- CEO of the Fremantle Football Club, Simon Garlick;
- CEO of the City of Cockburn, Daniel Simms;
- City of Cockburn Aboriginal Reference Group Chair Mitchell Garlett;
- Our Cultural Advisors and Knowledge Holders;
- Erin Rundle, Senior Adviser First Nations Relations Woodside Energy, and member of the Fremantle Football club's RAP External Advisory Group;
- Fiona Gardener, Community Development Manager and Proud Aboriginal

Woman;

- Other members of the Fremantle Football Club and City of Cockburn staff here today;
- Players from the Fremantle Football Club Men's and Women's Teams; and
- Teachers, students and volunteers from the participating schools here today:
 - Coogee Primary School
 - Newton Primary School
 - Phoenix Primary School
 - Beeliar Primary School
 - Yangebup Primary School
 - East Hamilton Hill Primary School
 - Jilbup Primary School
 - Spearwood Primary School
 - Success Primary School
 - Harmony Primary School
 - Coolbellup Community School.

Ladies and gentlemen, one and all. I am delighted to open today's cultural immersion event.

At the City of Cockburn, we believe a vibrant, inclusive, connected and healthy community is one that recognises and celebrates the diverse cultures and heritages of its people, communities and location.

We celebrate local First Nations culture, and we have a rich history of striving for reconciliation with our First Nations community.

Today is an especially important day in many respects:

It is the second event following the formation of the Fremantle Football Club and the City of Cockburn joint partnership agreement,

We are immensely proud to be sharing Beeliar Boodja with this great Club. Fremantle Football Club has a great history and have been well served by a number of Aboriginal players including Roger Hayden, Des Headland,

Jeff Farmer, Stephen Hill, Sonny Walters and Alex Pearce

And the involvement of 11 of our local schools and their teachers and students.

I am sure everyone is going to love the activities that have been organised for you today which include:

- A Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony
- Beeliar Boodja Story Telling
- Traditional dance
- Cultural history with insights about the origins of the Walyalup name
- Jumper art
- Group art
- Football clinic
- And a delicious BBQ.

Thank you for joining us today and may you all enjoy the opportunity to connect and share the stories on Aboriginal culture on Beeliar Boodja.