

Speech by
Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP
City of Cockburn
Volunteer Emergency Services Function
Esplanade Hotel
Friday 13 November 2015

Good evening ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the Elected Members and staff I welcome you to the City of Cockburn's 2015 Volunteer Emergency Services Function.

I acknowledge the Nyungar People who are the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we are gathered tonight and I pay respect to their Elders, past and present and extend that respect to other Indigenous Australians who are with us tonight.

I acknowledge the presence of:

- Mr Don Miguel, OAM JP and Freeman of the City and his wife June;
- Deputy Mayor Carol Reeve-Fowkes and her husband Martin;
- Clr Steve Portelli and his partner Sharon;
- Clr Phil Eva JP and his wife Michele;
- Clr Stephen Pratt and his wife Elena;
- Clr Lyndsey Wetton and her fiance Nicholas;
- My wife Patricia;
- Representatives from DFES:
- Mr Greg Feeney and his wife Penny;

- Mr Mark Friend;
- Mr Will Blackshaw, Metropolitan SES District Manager;
- Mr Mr Terry Wegwermer, DFES Community Emergency Services Manager Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, City of Cockburn and his partner Tenille; and
- Mr Michael Tait, Captain, South Coogee Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade and his wife Candice and Brigade members and their partners;
- Mr Shane Harris, Captain, Jandakot Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade and Brigade and his wife Amy and Brigade Members and their partners;
- Mr Drew Deveraux, Unit Manager Cockburn SES, and SES members and their partners;
- Commander Mike Graham, Cockburn Sea, Search & Rescue and other Members and their partners;

City of Cockburn Staff:

- Mr Rob Avard, Manager Community Services;
- Mr Mike Emery, Emergency Management and Projects Coordinator;
- Ms Valerie Viljoen, Civic Events Coordinator;
- Matt Nankivell, our photographer tonight; and
- DJ - Dylan Hammond and his trainee assistant Patrick who will be entertaining us later in the evening.
- Commissioner Gregson PSM and Assistant Commissioner extend their apologies as they are attending the DFES Station Officers Promotion Ceremony.

I understand that the Honourable Joe Francis MLA, the Minister for Emergency Services may be joining us later in the evening.

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.

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.

I have said in previous years that there is something in the Australian ethos that seems to bond mates together, particularly in times need.

Over the years we have seen and heard words such as mateship, courage, dedication, passion and commitment used to describe our emergency services volunteers and the important work that they do.

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 milestones.

To assist me in the presentation of the service badges I now call forward Deputy Mayor Carol Reeve-Fowkes to come forward to assist in the presentation of service pins to those emergency services volunteers who qualify in the different service categories.

Thank you Deputy Mayor Reeve-Fowkes.

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 would also like to acknowledge and thank Valerie Viljoen for co-ordinating tonight's function.

Please join with me to thank Valerie.

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

However before we close proceedings there are a number of door prizes available tonight – so get out your tickets as we will be referencing the numbers on them.

Firstly, there are four gift baskets, one for each emergency services group.

So to the draw.

Secondly, there are 4 wine or champers prizes, again one for each emergency services category.

And lastly

1 x coffee machine – with compliments of the Esplanade Hotel Fremantle by Ridges in what I'll call the 'Open' category – that's all emergency services – and obviously to be placed in a strategic location at the relevant headquarters by the winner.

Ladies and gentlemen.

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?

Please remember the drink safe rules and enjoy your evening.

The caterers will be calling you forward to the buffet one table at a time so please follow their directions.

Thank you.