

**Launch of the website Derbal Nara.org.au**

**Tuesday 27 May 2014**

**1.00pm to – 2:30pm**

**Function Room, City of Cockburn**

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Good afternoon and welcome to the City of Cockburn for the launch of the website;

**Derbal Nara.org.au.**

It is also an occasion where we gather for National Reconciliation Week to celebrate the rich culture and history of the First Australians.

Initiated in 1996, National Reconciliation Week is an ideal time for everyone to join the reconciliation conversation and reflect on shared histories, contributions and achievements.

It is a time to celebrate and build on the respectful relationships shared by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and all people who live in this land called Australia.

I thank the Reverend Sealin Garlett for his 'Welcome to Country' and for his continuing contribution to Cockburn and further afield.

Thank you Sealin.

I acknowledge the Nyungar people who are the Traditional Custodians of the Land on which we have gathered today and pay respect to the Elders both past and present of the Nyungar Nation and extend that respect to other Indigenous Australians present.

I would now like to formally welcome:

- Ms Simone McGurk MLA – Member for Fremantle;
- The Reverend Sealin Garlett and his wife Marilyn;
- Ms Laura Stoker, Associate Professor; Curtin University Sustainability Policy Institute;
- My wife Patricia;
- Mr Stephen Cain, Chief Executive Officer, City of Cockburn;
- Simone Sieber, Children's Development Officer, City of Cockburn;

- Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am very pleased that City of Cockburn is the Coastal Partner in conjunction with the Curtin University Sustainability Policy Institute, for this Derbal Nara website project.

It provides another great resource, and acknowledgement of the strong history and culture of the Nyungar people who have lived along the Cockburn coastal area for tens of thousands of years.

Our thanks go to the Curtin University team that have brought this information together into one website, which means many people can now have access to the resource.

The Family Services staff at the City of Cockburn have assisted by putting together a brochure about the website adding another resource that sits alongside our Beeljar Boodjar booklet.

These Actions are all part of the City's Reconciliation Action Plan in bringing a greater awareness, knowledge and understanding to elected members, staff and our community, on the rich history, culture and practices of the Nyungar peoples.

I look forward to joining with you on this journey of learning and understanding and engagement that forms part of the launch today.

Thank you.