

CITY OF COCKBURN
MAYOR LOGAN HOWLETT
SPEECH
ANNUAL PIONEERS LUNCHEON
Friday 3 June 2016

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the Elected Members I welcome you all to the City of Cockburn's 2016 Pioneers Luncheon.

I thank Reverend Sealin Garlett for his 'Welcome to Country'.

Our City is truly blessed with people such as you and your wife Marilyn who work tirelessly in our community and further afield to ensure the Nyungar culture, customs; practices and language are promoted to as many people as possible.

Ladies and gentlemen please join with me in thanking Reverend Garlett?

I acknowledge the Nyungar people who are the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we have gathered today and I pay respect to the Elders of the Nyungar Nation, both past and present and acknowledge indigenous Australians who are present today.

As you know our Pioneers Lunch is held at this time of the year leading up to what is now referred to as WA Day.

It is an occasion for the City to acknowledge and celebrate the contribution made by long term residents to the growth, development and status of our City within the region, the State and Australia.

I acknowledge the presence of:

- The Hon. Melissa Parke, MP;
- The Hon. Lyn MacLaren MLC, Member South Metropolitan Region and her guest Ms Leigh Sinclair;

- The Hon. Kate Doust, MLC, Member for the South Metropolitan Region;
- The Honourable Francis Logan, MLA, Member for Cockburn;
- Ms Simone McGurk, MLA, Member for Fremantle;
- Mr Peter Tinley AM, MLA, Member for Willagee;
- Mr Don Miguel OAM JP Freeman and his wife June;
- Councillors of the City of Cockburn:
 - Deputy Mayor Carol Reeve-Fowkes and her husband Martin;
 - Councillor Bart Houwen;
 - Councillor Chamonix Terblanche and her guest, Dr David Forbes;
- my wife Patricia;
- Fremantle Councillor Ingrid Waltham, representing the City of Fremantle's Mayor, Dr Brad Pettitt;
- Former Councillors of our City of which there are a number here today;
- Former Town Clerk/City Manager, Mr Tony Armarego and his wife Elsie;
- The Reverend Sealin Garlett and his wife Marilyn;
- The City's Executive Group and management representatives:
 - Mr Stephen Cain, Chief Executive Officer;
 - Mr Daniel Arndt, Director Planning and Development;
 - Mr Charles Sullivan, Director Engineering & Works;
 - Ms Margot Tobin, Executive Manager, Strategy & Civic Support;
 - Ms Valerie Viljoen, Civic Events Co-ordinator;
- Ladies and gentlemen, one and all.

The Pioneers Luncheons were introduced by former President of the then Shire of Cockburn, Councillor Alan Thomas in 1971.

Since then the descendants of pioneering families of the district have come together on this very special day to reflect on days gone by, to share a story or two, to foster lifelong friendships and to remember our 'absent' friends since we last met.

The values of hard work, honesty, mateship and commitment are those that have made Cockburn such a great places to live, to raise a family, to work, to operate a small business and to those seeking to invest in our community.

These values are considered when the announcement of the Cockburn Citizen of the Year Award is made each year.

Last year, we announced Mrs Nola Waters as the recipient of this award.

The announcement of the 2016 recipient will be made later this afternoon.

At last year's luncheon many of you would remember that I thanked our community for the enormous effort to stop the 'carve up' of Cockburn.

Challenged with the prospect of division, we united.

Our community sent a shock wave through the State Government's plan to divide our great City.

Our efforts, together with several other local governments are credited with stopping the State-wide reform.

Not only did we prevent the 'carve up' of Cockburn, it strengthened our position for all time by starting a conversation with our residents and business communities about the foundation blocks that built this City, the contributions from people like yourself in this room and those that have followed in your footsteps and the dreams and aspirations that we all have for the future.

We stood together because it made sense for us to be together. The City of Cockburn remains one of the fastest growing local governments in the State.

We have a population of approximately 110,000 and over 7,000 local businesses in Cockburn. Collectively we have around 50,000 local jobs.

We want people who live in Cockburn to work in Cockburn wherever possible.

In last year's independent community satisfaction survey, our residents told us that their overall satisfaction with the City of Cockburn as a place to live was a record 93%.

Our community loves Cockburn and with your assistance we will continue to grow all aspects of Cockburn ensuring an increasing number of people moving to make Cockburn their home or place of work.

In light of our community's satisfaction, let me now address, again – yet another proposal has been made to the WA Local Advisory Board to have the suburbs of Hamilton Hill and North Coogee to come under the control of the City of Fremantle.

There are many lessons to learn about previous failed attempts to divide communities.

The process of dividing unwilling communities is costly.

It is disruptive.

We all remember the tremendous effort put forth by our community to stop the 'carving up' of Cockburn

I assure the community of Cockburn that your previous efforts to retain the City of Cockburn as we see it today, were not in vain.

I remain committed now, as I was then, to the continued unity and strength of our great City.

In closing, I thank each and every one of you for being here today and wish you good health and happiness for the future.

Thank you.

I would now like to introduce David Pigram who will be entertaining us over the next period of time.

David is one of the seven members of the Pigram Brothers.

David is an accomplished singer and acoustic guitar player and has a magical voice.

Ladies and gentlemen – please welcome David Pilgrim.

Performance - Thank you David

Acknowledgements

Firstly:

- Ladies and gentlemen would you please join with me in thanking Valerie Viljoen for co-ordinating today's event and for the presentation of the venue today? Thank you Valerie.

Secondly

- Ladies and gentlemen would you please join with me in thanking Alenka Radonich, Joe Favazzo, Debra Lilleyman and the wonderful catering staff at the Spearwood Dalmatinac Sport & Community Club.

As always the volunteers at the Club provide a warm welcome, delicious food and wonderful table service.

Today Juliet Coghlan will be taking photographs as we sit back and enjoy ourselves.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today we have a number of special announcements:

- Shirley Grida turned 70 on 24 February;
- Miho Nikolich turned 75 on 6 May;
- George Higgs turned 87 on 30 May;
- Angelo Gandossi turns 70 on 27 August
- John Bavich turns 94 in August – he was born in Gerald Street and still lives there. His Father came to Spearwood in 1915 and all the family have grown up there. John is the youngest.

Today I take the opportunity to acknowledge the Hon Melissa Parke, MP, Federal Member for Fremantle given this will more than likely be her last opportunity to attend a Pioneer's lunch.

Melissa you have served the Federal Electorate of Fremantle with distinction since you were first elected on 24 November 2007.

From your maiden speech through to your connectivity with your electorate throughout your parliamentary career you have worked diligently to provide representation of the highest order.

The Fremantle electorate has seen millions of dollars made available for significant community infrastructure projects due to your strong advocacy at a State and Federal level.

We wish you well in your future dreams and aspirations – you are truly a great friend of Cockburn and always will be.

On a sad note we said farewell to a number of our community members during the year.

As we remember them and their contribution to Cockburn can I ask you to observe one minute's silence please?

May they rest in peace?

PRESENTATION OF 2016 COCKBURN CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Ladies and Gentlemen

I have great pleasure in announcing the recipient of the 2016 Cockburn Citizen of the Year Award.

The recipient joins a distinguished list of people from across our community who has made a significant contribution to ensuring that Cockburn is such a great place to live, work, visit and invest.

Please join with me in welcoming Mr Bill Wallington to the stage.

Bill has been a driving force in our community for over four decades taking on leadership roles in a variety of areas whether it is in his:

- role as President of the Cockburn Community & Cultural Council (over 40 years) that manages the annual Cockburn Community and Cultural Council Arts and crafts sale and exhibition;
- membership of the City's Cultural Reference Group providing advice and assistance on art and culture projects within the City;
- assisting with the youth art scholarship program

- as instigator of the school performance and exhibition program;

- advocating for a fair and equitable system for young people to be involved in local sport;

- involvement in junior football including being on the match review and discipline panels for the South Fremantle Football District;

Bill was also heavily involved with the City's campaign to stop Cockburn from being carved up.

He contributed many hours of his time to help keep our community united clearly demonstrating his passion for all things Cockburn.

Bill is an asset to Cockburn and we thank Bill for being such a valuable citizen of the City of Cockburn.

Bill is a true champion of Cockburn.

Congratulations once again Bill.

Invite to speak.

Ladies and gentlemen, as in past years I ask those of you who were at the inaugural Pioneers lunch in 1971 to come forward for a photograph?

Ladies and gentlemen as we move to conclude the formal part of today I have been asked to let you all know about the 'Back to Country – Celebrating our History' event occurring at the Randwick Stables

Precinct adjacent to the Wally Hagan Basketball Stadium on Sunday 5 June, commencing at 10.00am.

You will be amazed by the historic displays of tractors, farm machinery, buggies and horses, Clydesdale ploughing demonstrations, wagon rides, cultural walks, tree planting and much more.

Hope to see you at the event.

Well that concludes the formalities; please enjoy the remainder of the afternoon.