

Good evening ladies and gentlemen

I extend a warm welcome to you on the occasion of the 2016 Club Development Super Workshop.

First held in 2011, the workshop is run in conjunction with the City of Fremantle and the South Fremantle Football District, although it is open to all clubs. The Department of Sport & Recreation, together with the aforementioned organisations have sponsored tonight's event.

The purpose of the event is to increase the capacity of club volunteers to ensure sustainable clubs within the Fremantle and Cockburn districts.

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

I acknowledge the presence of:

- Mr Travis Moore, Recreation Services Coordinator; City of Cockburn;
- Mr Nathan Johnstone, Recreation Development Officer; City of Cockburn;
- Ms Stephanie Walding, Club Development Officer, City of Cockburn;
- Ms Erin Litchfield, Community Development Officer, City of Fremantle;
- Representatives of Clubs from across Fremantle and Cockburn; and
- Mr Brant Garvey, our keynote speaker.

**Late apology:**

Mr Bradd Gardiner, South Fremantle District Football Development Council.

**Champion Clubs program**

Champion Clubs is a Club Development initiative funded by the Department of Sport and Recreation, in partnership with the City of Cockburn.

The program aims to assist clubs to create healthy, welcoming and inclusive sporting environments to increase community participation.

Tonight there are over 100 people in attendance from a range of sporting clubs representing the diversity of sporting codes in our districts that provide opportunities for people of all ages and ability to participate in the sport or sports of their choosing.

The volunteering effort in our respective communities is no better represented than in this room tonight where tens of thousands of hours are devoted each year to ensuring the sustainability and success of the clubs that you represent.

As club representatives each of you provide the opportunities for those who are pursuing their dreams and aspirations in their chosen sport or sports in a structured, organised, disciplined and value driven manner that is unique to your club.

Clubs in our respective cities have been in existence for anywhere between 10 and 80 plus years - they have seen successive committees, members, players, sponsors and supporters pass through their ranks.

In many cases their names will be displayed on honour boards, photographic displays, described in publications, become households names, represented the state and/or the nation - they will also be the unsung heroes; those who help out behind the scenes, mum and dads, grandparents, friends of the club - to each and every one of those people and those of you here tonight we owe a debt of gratitude.

From a personal point of view I grew up with a hunger for sport, particularly football, athletics and basketball.

As a child you don't necessarily take in or understand the number of people around you who provide the coaching, mentoring, the organisation of club activities and the game day support.

You are in a world of your own, team mates around you, lots of chatter and banter, out their training and coming to match day ready to perform.

As you move into your teenage years you come to understand that if it wasn't for all these people around you volunteering their knowledge and practical know how the club would probably not exist.

And that's what each and every one of you do in your capacity as Club representatives whether it be on the field or off, and in some cases both.

Congratulations go to you for the enduring contributions you make to the sustainability of your club and the opportunities you create for all.

I trust you will enjoy the workshop tonight, learn from our guest speaker, Brant Garvey, and through the sharing and networking opportunities that present themselves.

Thank you.