

Media Release

5 January 2026

Community connection at heart of popular annual Australia Day Coogee Beach Festival

Community connection will be on display at the City of Cockburn's eternally popular annual Australia Day Coogee Beach Festival 8am-midday on Monday 26 January.

Perth-based radio and TV presenter Alana McLean will emcee the annual event and Auspire (Australia Day Council WA) has appointed inspiring co-founder of the award-winning Town Team Movement, Jimmy Murphy as our Australia Day Ambassador for 2026.

Jimmy is a champion of creating and connecting communities, empowering people to generate a sustainable sense of belonging in the neighbourhoods where they live.

The movement works with communities – including in Yangebup, South Lake and Bibra Lake – and local governments to form or join existing Town Team groups to establish activities like street festivals, working bees, community gardens and even food co-ops.

The practical, positive approach has spread from WA across the nation and to New Zealand, forming more than 100 Town Teams. Jimmy also co-founded Arts Impact WA, a philanthropic organisation that funds arts projects.

The family-friendly beach festival will offer a host of varied entertainment and activities beginning with a Welcome to Country, followed by the brilliant Bindjareb Middars Aboriginal dancers.

This group has been showcasing Bibbulmun culture from the South West for many years in WA and across the world.

Other exciting activities include the JRS Singers, the Monty Cotton Trio and The Heaps Good Show, plus Aussie favourites, watermelon-eating and thong-throwing competitions and a mermaid meet and greet.

Other attractions include:

- WA Birds of Prey and West Oz wildlife encounters
- Circus workshops
- Splash zone with water slides
- Roving entertainers
- Food and drink vans.



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For more details visit the City's [website](http://cockburn.wa.gov.au).

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