

A brief description of Split in Croatia.



Split stands on the coast of the Adriatic Sea (an extension of the Mediterranean, immediately east of Italy). Split is home to just under 200,000 people, the City stands on a rocky coastline, and its landscape is typified by rugged dry limestone hills. Split's climate is Mediterranean and very similar to the City of Cockburn's.

In AD 305 the Roman Emperor Diocletian chose a Greek colony on the Dalmatian coast as the site for his palace. Greek Aspalathos thus became known as Roman Spalatum, which in the intervening years has been transformed into the modern City now known as Split.

As the centuries past, the palace left by Diocletian was absorbed into the fabric of the city and today it forms a historic core at the city's heart, the ruins of the palace now form an important destination for tourists and in 1979 the city centre was listed as a UNESCO world heritage site.

Prior to the disintegration of the Yugoslavian federation in the 1990s, Split was an important industrial centre. Shipbuilding, food, chemical, plastics, textiles and paper industries were established in the port city. Since independence the City has emphasised its role as a centre for commercial and service industries, although it still hosts the largest shipyard in Croatia.

During the latter half of the 20th Century the City of Cockburn hosted a mass migration of people fleeing war ravaged Europe for the relative peace and security of Australia. Cockburn has become home to large numbers of Croatians, being familiar with the climate and soils they naturally took to the area's market gardening industry and have since influenced the social and cultural profile of the City for the past half century.

The Design of the Split section of the Friendship Way.

The Split section of the Friendship Way has taken market gardening and the strong tradition of hospitality of the City's Croatian community as the central theme for this section of the route.





Shade versus views!

The footpath immediately west of Spearwood Avenue lies at the foot of a series of large retaining walls surmounted with new housing development (primarily on Giudice Way). The appeal of these housing sites is greatly enhanced by the views across the Swan coastal plain to the hills on the eastern horizon.

It is proposed that reference to the involvement of Cockburn's Croatian settlers in the local horticultural industry be commemorated, by planting an avenue of decorative fruit trees along the western edge of the above footpath.

It is anticipated that this avenue of trees will shade people using the footpath, whilst retaining the views described above. Autumn colour, winter sunshine and spring blossom will enliven the view from the road and ameliorate the pedestrian's experience of using this stretch of the road.



Gateway.

The city of Split was founded by the Roman emperor Diocletian. Even today the city centre is dominated by the remains of Diocletian's palace complex.

It is proposed that the Coat of Arms of Split-and-Dalmatia are recreated in the form of a monument at either end of the portion of the Cockburn Sister City Memorial Route dedicated to Split. This will serve to mark the beginning and end of the route.

Each monument will consist of three obelisks constructed of courses of limestone blocks and terracotta tiling, recalling Diocletian's palace walls. The obelisks will be topped with golden, crowned, leopard's busts. The coat of arms consisting of three golden crowned leopards on a blue field, is derived from Diocletian's seal, and appears in a central position above the national chequer board motif of the modern Croatian flag.





Embankments and hill sides.

Much of the coast around Split (and its nearby islands) consists of dry limestone hills. The area is typified by steep hillsides, forested with pines, peppered with incense cedars and terraced with vineyards. Fruit trees familiar to inhabitants of Cockburn such as figs and stone fruit can be found in orchards in this area.



It is proposed that the embankments to the west of Spearwood Avenue are screened with low post-and-wire fencing planted with grapevines and incense cedars to recall the landscape of the Dalmatian coast. This technique will also reduce the need to plant and irrigate large areas of roadside. Drip irrigation can be employed sparingly on the vines and the pencil cedars may eventually be weaned off irrigation altogether.



Site photographs of the Split section of the Friendship Way.

