

Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP
Wattleup Re-Union – 90th Birthday Celebrations
Manning Park, Spearwood
Saturday 17 April, 2021

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen, Girls and Boys

I am delighted to be here today to celebrate the 90th Birthday of the community of Wattleup.

I acknowledge the Whadjup people of the Nyungar Nation, the custodians of the land on which we are meeting today and I pay respect to their Elders past, present & emerging and extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are with us today.

I acknowledge the residents and their descendants of the Wattleup Town site who are here today to reflect upon the time Wattleup was a thriving town site and an important stop for those journeying from Fremantle to Rockingham and beyond and those on the return journey.

It was a place to stop at the 10 mile well, refresh and prepare for the continuing journey.

I remember being present at the 80th birthday celebrations held within the town site – to view the many photographs of days gone by, to hear the stories of those who had made Wattleup their home, the move to clear the town site for industrial development/port related purposes, and to hear the stories of the lack of progress, even today, 10 years on.

We know and appreciate the heartache of every person who lived in the town site as each made the decision to leave – to head to an unknown future, of receiving compensation to re-locate – to understand that in

many cases that money never covered the cost of re-location and how today the former town site lays unattended.

While announcements have been made about the proposed outer harbour there continues to be the need for on-going environmental studies, land acquisition, road corridors being identified and locked away and much more.

Today's event comes amidst the Australian Heritage Festival celebrations.

The Historical Society of Cockburn have put together a wonderful program of events over the coming weeks and I invite you to participate where you can.

Today is also the day of the funeral service (10pm AWST) for His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh at St George's Chapel, Windsor, in the United Kingdom.

As a mark of mourning and respect, the Australian National Flag is being flown at half-mast all day on Saturday, 17 April 2021, where possible from all buildings and establishments occupied by Western Australian Government departments and affiliated agencies. Other organisations are encouraged to participate.

Again, congratulations on your 90th Birthday celebrations.