

**Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP**

**Annual Pioneers' Luncheon**

**held at**

**Spearwood Dalmatinac Sport &**

**Community Club**

**Friday 9 June 2023**

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Good afternoon ladies & gentlemen.

On behalf of the Elected Members and staff of the City of Cockburn I welcome you to the 2023 Pioneers' Luncheon.

For those of you attending your first Pioneers' Luncheon I extend a very warm welcome to you.

For Pat and I, this is our 33rd Pioneers' Luncheon, a day that we consider to be one of the most important on our annual calendar of events.

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Ladies and gentlemen, would you please welcome Reverend Mitchell Garlett, a Nyungar Elder to provide a 'Welcome to Country' address?

Thank you Mitchell.

It is always good to see you and I thank you for your continuing work in the community and for sharing the dream time stories that form an important part of the continuing heritage, culture, and language of the Nyungar Nation.

I acknowledge the Wadjuk People of the Nyungar Nation who are the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we have gathered today, and I pay respect to their Elders, past, present, and emerging and acknowledge First Nation people who are with us today.

I acknowledge the presence of:

- The Honourable Klara Andric MLC, South Metropolitan Region and Jess Desmond;
- My wife Patricia;

**Councillors of the City of Cockburn:**

- Councillor Kevin Allen;

- Councillor Philip Eva JP;
- Councillor Chontelle Stone;
- Councillor Michael Separovich;
- Councillor Phoebe Corke;
- Councillor Tarun Dewan; and
- Councillor Carol Reeve-Fowkes.

### **The City's Executive Group & Other Members of Staff**

- Mr Daniel Arndt, A/Chief Executive Officer;
- Mr Anton Lees, Chief Operations Officer;
- Ms Victoria Green, Executive Corporate Affairs;
- Ms Emma Milne, Executive Governance & Strategy;
- Mr Nelson Mauricio, A/Chief Financial Officer;
- Ms Chantelle Hanrahan, Acting Executive People Experience and Transformation;
- Ms Brittany Cover, Head of Library & Cultural Services;
- Ms Emma Howe, Events Co-ordinator;
- Sandra Galati, Civic Services;
- Former Councillors and their respective guests;
- Mr Tony Armarego, former Town Clerk of the City and his wife Elsie;
- Mr Rod Brown, former CEO of the City;
- Mr Denis Tomasich, former councillor and now President of the Spearwood Dalmatic Sport & Community Club Inc. & his wife Maureen;
- Ladies and gentlemen, one and all.

The Pioneers' Luncheons were introduced in 1971 and 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.

I am pleased to say that this year's luncheon has returned to the normal format with everyone gathering on the same day to celebrate WA Day, or as it was previously known, Foundation Day.

Although the COVID pandemic is still with us we have adjusted our lifestyle knowing that family and friends are still contracting the disease and/or are recovering from it.

As in past times the luncheon is an occasion for the City to acknowledge and celebrate the contribution made by long term residents to the growth, development, and prosperity of our great City.

The values of hard work, honesty, mateship, and commitment are those that have made Cockburn such a great place to live, work, to raise families, to build our community and to invest.

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

In 2022 Mr Rocco Zagari was announced as the recipient of the WA Day Award for the City of Cockburn.

Mr Zagari joined a list of well-known and prominent members of our community valued for their passion and commitment for all things Cockburn.

Ladies and gentleman; before I announce the 2023 WA Day Cockburn Citizen of the Year I ask for all the previous recipients of this Award to please stand?

Thank you.

I am pleased to announce the 2023 WA Day Cockburn Citizen of the Year recipient is:

### **Lesley Ward**

Can we have a round of applause for Leslie Ward as she comes forward to receive her award.

Lesley has been cooking meals everyday - with healthy, thoughtful ingredients -delivering them, for free, to people all around the district -even making extras for friends she happens upon, along the way.

Lesley uses her own home-made bread, yoghurt, pies, etc and is ever willing to dive into whatever someone is going through in their life - and they end up bright as a lantern after the conversation.

Lesley doesn't get enough credit for the volunteering efforts she goes to.

In fact, she doesn't ask for credit at all.

Lesley never keeps her recipes or journals to herself - her recipes have influenced so many people's cooking and definitely helped make better food and healthy choices just by interacting with her.

Lesley really does personify the community values that reflect this award and like so many previous recipients she is a beacon of our community.

Congratulations Lesley and may you continue your exceptional volunteering efforts.

### **Would you like to say a few words?**

#### **Ladies and gentlemen**

On behalf of elected members, staff and the Cockburn community, I thank you for your contribution to ensuring that Cockburn continues to grow in a sustainable manner and that it maintains its position at the forefront of local government in Western Australia.

The City continues to plan for the future with substantial investments in new community facilities, roads, shared pathways, the protection of its natural environment, partnerships with key stakeholders and an unparalleled level of services to its community – delivered by professional staff and supported in so many different ways by our passionate volunteer base.

Ladies and gentlemen on behalf of the City's elected members and staff I thank each and every one of you for being here today and wish you good health and happiness for the future.

I'll be back a bit later for some special announcements.

Thank you.

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### **Special Announcements**

Today we have a number of special announcements:

- Mr & Mrs E. Galipo                      53rd wedding anniversary
- Mr & Mrs F. Petkovich                  60th wedding anniversary
- Mrs Katie Roglich -                      96th birthday on the 1st June 2023
- Mr & Mrs A. Gumina                      Antonio's 95th birthday 11/06/2023

- Mr & Mrs T. Garbin Tom turned 80 on 29.5.2023
- Mrs F. Gatti & Guest Mrs Gatti 81st birthday
- Mr A. Mirco - Antonio's birthday 8.6.2023
- Ms Renata Mancini - birthday 6th June
- Mr & Mrs D. Juras - Joyce birthday 20/06

I would now like to call forward for a photograph those of you who are here today and have attended this luncheon since its inception in 1971.

Ladies and gentlemen.

Today's event has been co-ordinated by Brittany Cover and Emma Howe - would you join with me in acknowledging their great work and the presentation of the venue today.

Thank you Brittany and Emma.

Can we also thank the volunteers in the kitchen and those who are waiting on the tables today for the effort they have gone to ensure we are enjoying ourselves.

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I again thank for your attendance today and trust that you will continue to enjoy good health and happiness well into the future.

I am very proud to serve as Mayor of this great City supported by my wife Patricia and take this opportunity to thank elected members, staff and our volunteers as we continue to plan for an inclusive and dynamic community going forward.

The centrepiece on each table will go to the person who has lived in Cockburn the longest time.

Thank you.