

Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP
Sister City presentation with Yueyang China as part of Lunar New
Year Success Library
17 February 2024

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen.

I am delighted to be here today with my wife Pat, and Councillor Carol Zhang in celebration of the Chinese New Year and our sister city relationship with Yueyang, China.

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

I acknowledge:

- Mr Zhufeng WANG, Chinese Consul-General, People's Republic of China;
- Mr Fengzhong WANG, Deputy Consul-General, People's Republic of China;
- Mr Richard Yu and Mr Song Zhu from the Hunan Culture and Commerce Association;
- Mr Sam Lim MP, Federal Member for Tangney;
- Dr Chen Ting - President of the Chung Wah Association;
- Mr Daniel Newman, Manager Advocacy and Engagement;
- Deb Rigby, Adult Library Services Co-ordinator;
- Liz Vuchocho, Cultural Diversity Officer;
- Other members of staff;
- Ladies and gentlemen, one and all.

Our City is proud of its rewarding, long-standing and reciprocal sister city relationships and is pleased to host representatives from the Consulate, People's Republic of China, the Hunan Culture and Commerce Association and the Cockburn Chinese Community Association today.

The cities of Cockburn and Yueyang established a sister city relationship on 28 November 1998 based on the popularity of dragon boat racing and cultural and educational opportunities that would mutually beneficial.

While the City of Cockburn sits on the Indian Ocean and is home to the Australian Marine Complex, and Yueyang is on the shores of the Yangtze River – the longest river in Asia – port-related activities are important activities we have in common.

Cockburn has a very multicultural population – we are the most culturally diverse local government in the Perth southern metropolitan area.

In Cockburn, one in every two residents is from a culturally diverse background, with either themselves or their parents born overseas.

In fact, Chinese is in the top five languages spoken at home in Cockburn.

We have an active Chinese community and our City takes pride in joining with it to celebrate the onset of the Lunar New Year every February, as we have done here this afternoon at the Success Library.

This year our celebrations for the onset of the Year of the Dragon have included several programs across all three of our libraries to honour the culture, language, and the importance of our ties to our Chinese community and to our sister city of Yueyang.

The year of the dragon is very important to me being born in the Year of Dragon, in fact the Water Dragon.

Some of the memorable Lunar New Year activities the city will provide to our community this year include a lion dance by the Chung Wah Association, traditional music performances, craft activities, an educational Lunar New Year presentation, a bubble tea workshop, a cooking class and Lunar New Year themed story times.

To all our guests here today, I hope the Year of the Dragon ahead is a joyous, prosperous one marked by good health, wealth, and longevity.

Thank you.