

Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP

City of Cockburn

Murphy High School and Lakelands SHS (Cockburn Rotary Spring Fair)

Sunday 30 October, 5:30pm

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Good afternoon everyone. I hope you have enjoyed the festivities of the day at the Cockburn Rotary Spring Fair.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the Nyungar people who are the Traditional Custodians of the Land on which we are meeting tonight and I pay respect to the Elders both past and present of the Nyungar Nation and extend that respect to other Indigenous Australians who may be present.

I would also like to acknowledge guests including:

- MPs/Elected members TBC
- Mr Stan Chapman and
- the students from Murphy High School

The Murphy High School Band have joined us here today all the way from Mobile, Alabama in the USA.

The band is here with us today, celebrating our Sister City relationship with the City of Mobile.

Mobile is the third most populous city in Alabama and the state's only port.

The city is a cultural centre, housing opera and ballet companies, a symphony orchestra and art museums.

An early connection between the two cities was made by Captain James Stirling, who visited both Mobile and Cockburn during his naval career.

We also share a strong link through the shipbuilding industry which further connects the two cities.

These international relationships celebrate historical links between our two nations and promote cross-cultural understanding.

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Given Mobile's rich cultural influences it is not surprising to see this level of talent come through in the Murphy High School Band.

The Band has a long history of musical excellence and has achieved superior ratings at numerous local, regional, state-wide, and national marching and concert venues throughout America.

They have also performed internationally in Mexico City, Holland, London, and Ireland, and nationally in venues in Washington DC, Chicago and Honolulu to name a few.

The band first performed in Cockburn at this very same event in 2008.

This year we welcome 16 students and their band master, Mr Stan Chapman.

Travelling with the band is an Azalea Trail Maid with her antebellum dress.

The City of Mobile's Azalea Trail Maids have served ambassadors for city since 1951.

The Maids, wearing extravagant antebellum-style dresses meant to look like flowers, and make appearances at many local, state, and national events.

They often serve as greeters when foreigners and dignitaries visit the city, and are required to be knowledgeable about the city landmarks and history.

The Maids are meant to embody the ideals of "Southern hospitality".

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Performing alongside Murphy High School is Cockburn's very own Lakelands Senior High School.

The music department at Lakelands is highly regarded and the students are accomplished performers.

The two Bands have been working closely to develop today's music program.

To have these two schools performing together today is a very special treat and I hope you all enjoy the performance.

Thank you.