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

**Annual Pioneers’ Luncheon**

**held at**

**Spearwood Dalmatinac Sport &

Community Club**

**Friday 31 May 2019**

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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 2019 Pioneers’ Luncheon.

For those of you attending your first Pioneers’ Luncheon I extend a very warm welcome on behalf of the elected members and staff of the City of Cockburn and the many friends around you today.

For Patricia and I, this is our 30th Pioneers’ Luncheon, a day that we consider to be one of the most important on our calendar.

I now invite Ms Marie Taylor, Nyungar Elder to provide a ‘Welcome to Country’

Marie I thank you for your delightful and thought provoking ‘Welcome to Country’.

It is always good to see you and to hear how you weave the Nyungar dream time stories into your Welcome to Country addresses.

Our City is truly blessed with people such as yourself who work tirelessly in the community for the betterment of others.

Ladies & gentlemen please join with me in thanking Marie Taylor.

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Ladies and gentlemen.

As you entered the Club today you would have seen a display of artwork that pays tribute to the history of Cockburn.

Irene Osborne, a local artist was commissioned by the City to produce the artwork.

From market gardens, flower gardens, vineyards, orchards, limestone kilns through to historic buildings the artwork captures the essence of life as it was going back in time.

The artwork will be permanently displayed on Spearwood Avenue near the intersection with Rockingham Road within the next month.

You may have noticed two sets of wooden panelling, one on each side of the road where the artwork will be displayed.

A working group consisting of Elected Members, staff and community members have worked for over 18 months to bring the project to this stage.

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 Indigenous Australians who are present with us today.

As you know our Pioneers Lunch is held at this time of the year leading up to what is now referred to as WA Day.

It is an occasion for the City to acknowledge and celebrate the contribution made by long term residents to the growth, development and status of our City; one of the most progressive local governments in Australia.

I acknowledge the presence of:

* Mr Josh Wilson, MP, Federal Member for Fremantle;
* The Honourable Francis Logan, MLA, Member for Cockburn and Minister for Emergency Services; Corrective Services;
* The Honourable Simone McGurk, MLA, Member for Fremantle and the Minister for Child Protection; Women's Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services;
* Mrs Marie Taylor;

**Councillors of the City of Cockburn:**

* Deputy Mayor Lee-Anne Smith, OAM;
* Councillor Carol Reeve-Fowkes and her husband Martin;
* Councillor Philip Eva, JP;
* Councillor Chontelle Sands;
* Councillor Michael Separovich;
* my wife Patricia;

 **The City’s Executive Group & Other Members of Staff**

• Mr Don Green, Director Governance & Community;

 • Mr Daniel Arndt, Director Planning and
 Development;

 • Mrs Gail Bowman, Executive Manager, Strategy & Civic Support;

* Mrs Vanda Bacich, Civic Support Officer;
* Mrs Ann Fitzpatrick, Civic Administration Officer; and
* Ms Farha Cleak, Internal Communications Officer;
* Ms Juliet Coghlan, who will be taking photographs on behalf of the City;

• Former Councillors of our City of which there are a number here
 today and former Town Clerk/City Manager, Mr Tony Armarego;

* Ladies and gentlemen.

The Pioneers Luncheons were introduced by former President of the then Shire of Cockburn, Councillor Alan Thomas in 1971.

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.

The values of hard work, honesty, mateship and commitment are those that have made Cockburn such a great places to live, to raise a family, to work, to operate a small business and to those seeking to invest in our community.

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

Last year, we announced Mr Joe Favazzo as the recipient of this award.

The announcement of the 2019 recipient will be made later this afternoon.

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.

In the year that Cockburn is celebrating its 40th anniversary the City continues to provide for the future of its community.

Examples of this include:

* The highly successful Cockburn ARC (the winner of 15 State and National Awards);
* The opening of the Cockburn Bowling & Recreation Club at Visko Park in Yangebup that provides for lawn bowling,, beach volley ball, futsal, darts and a great social environment; The former Cockburn Bowling Club building is currently in the process of being demolished.
* Later this year a world class hockey facility located in South Lake will be officially opened with the Fremantle Cockburn Hockey Association as the major tenant;
* Major road works continue across the City of Cockburn with over half a billion dollars being committed by the federal and state governments for the construction of the Armadale Bridge over the Kwinana Freeway with connectivity to the freeway for both north and south bound traffic, the widening of Armadale Road with associated connectivity to the Cockburn Railway Station and key roads in the locality and the widening of the Kwinana Freeway northbound.

Other completed or current road projects include:

* Spearwood Avenue widening including the bridge over the freight line;
* The round-a-bout on Russell Road and Hammond Road;
* The upgrade to Berrigan Drive and a new road into Jandakot Airport;
* Access from the freeway over Farrington Road into the Murdoch Activity Centre;
* Upgrades to Jandakot and Solomon Roads.
* The widening of Karel Avenue to the freeway including the bridge over the freeway and improved access to Jandakot Airport.

Add to that the City’s Community Chest where we allocate over $1M per year to a variety of individual and community organisations our City is very well positioned for the future.

Before I finish this segment of my speech please check under your side plate for a red sticker with the word; ‘winner’ on it.

If that is you, you are able to take the centrepiece floral arrangement home with you today.

Congratulations

Ladies and gentlemen, in closing, 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 to announce the City of Cockburn WA Day Award recipient and to make the special announcements ie birthdays and anniversaries.

Thank you.

**Special Announcements**

Today we have a number of special announcements:

Mrs Frances Bucat – 2019 WA Volunteer Service Award for 30 years service to the Notre Dame University presented last Wednesday by the Minister Mick Murray.

**Firstly a list of birthdays:**

Boris Roglich turned 70 on 1st June.

Cheryl Dixon turns 70 on 20th of June.

**and our Anniversaries:**
Milenko (Len) and Frances Mihaljevich celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on 2nd of May.

Antonio and Adeline Cinanni celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on 7th of June.

Robert & Olive Bandy also celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary this year.

Ladies and gentlemen on a sad note we said farewell to a number of our esteemed community members during the past year.

As we remember them and their contribution to Cockburn can I ask that you be upstanding, if you are able, to observe one minute’s silence please?

**May they rest in peace?**

Today’s event has been co-ordinated by Mrs Vanda Bacich and I would ask that you join with me in acknowledging Vanda’s great work and the presentation of the venue today.

Thank you Vanda.

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 too ensure we are enjoying ourselves with a special thank you to Alenka Radonich, Joe Favazzo and Cassandra Clancy.

**2019 WA Day Cockburn Citizen of the Year**

Ladies and gentleman; before I announce the 2019 WA Day Cockburn Citizen of the Year I ask for all the previous recipients of this Award to stand?

Thank you.

I am pleased to announce the 2019 WA Day Cockburn Citizen of the Year recipient is:

Mr Desmond O’Brien.

Des, congratulations on being named the 2019 City of Cockburn WA Day Award recipient - it is richly deserved in so many ways.

Des has been a resident of Cockburn since 1951 and contributed to the growth of our district through infrastructure development such as roads and drainage while also volunteering during that time.

Des was one of the founders of the Cockburn Bowling Club back in 1964 and is now a life member.

Des has been an active member in Cockburn volunteering and participating in many community associations and sporting clubs and is held in high regard by our community.

His knowledge of all things Cockburn is remarkable with an eye for detail of events that occurred over the years.

As we saw earlier, Des joins a long and distinguished list of former recipients of this Award.

Upon retirement Des volunteered at the St Vincent de Paul.

Des now cares full time for his wife Kath.

Congratulations Des on a richly deserved recognition of your contributions to the City over an amazing period of time.

I now invite you to say a few words.

Thank you.

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Ladies and gentlemen I now invite those of you who attended the inaugural Pioneers Luncheon in 1971 to come forward for a group photograph in front of the stage area?

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 and all that is achieved by our elected members, staff and our volunteers as we continue to plan for an inclusive and dynamic community going forward.

As is customary I hope that you have signed the attendance register or that you sign it before you leave today.

Thank you.