

**Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett JP
100 Years at Memorial Hall High Tea
Friday, 21 March 2025**

Good afternoon, everyone.

On behalf of the City, my wife Patricia and I extend a very warm welcome to you as we celebrate the 100 Years at Memorial Hall High Tea in this most magnificent community facility.

To Vaughn McGuire; thank you for your 'Welcome to Country' and the sharing of various aspects of the Nyungar culture, traditions, and language as we continue our shared journey of re-conciliation.

I acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather today, the Whadjuk people of the Nyungar Nation and I pay my respects to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all First Nations people here today.

I acknowledge:

- Your Excellency, the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM, Governor of Western Australia;
- The Honourable Simone McGurk, MLA Minister for Creative Industries; Heritage; Industrial Relations; Aged Care and Seniors; Women and the Member for Fremantle;
- My fellow elected members from the City of Cockburn;
- Mr Daniel Simms, Chief Executive Officer City of Cockburn and other Members of the Executive and staff here today;
- Representatives of the
 - City of Cockburn RSL Sub Branch;
 - Historical Society of Cockburn;
 - Cockburn's pioneers and their families; and
- Other members of our wonderful community here today.

Thank you for joining us for this momentous occasion.

Today, we mark 100 years since the foundation stones at the front entrance of the Memorial Hall which were laid by then-Governor Sir William Campion on 21 March 1925 and alongside it by Mrs W M Winfield.

The Memorial Hall was built as a tribute to the brave men and women of our district who served in the First World War.

Residents took five years to fundraise for the Hall which included hosting a Black and White Carnival that ran for a week in 1924.

The fundraising was supplemented by government assistance and bank loans.

As we know the Memorial Hall has stood for a century as a place of remembrance, community, and culture and located on a very prominent intersection in our district.

Over the years, this hall has been more than just a building.

It has been a theatre, a dance hall, a cinema, a meeting place, and now, our city's dedicated arts venue continuing to bring our community together.

Generations of Cockburn residents have celebrated milestones, created memories, and built connections within these very walls.

As we reflect on the past 100 years, we honour those who made this hall a reality.

Particularly Mrs Maud Winfield, whose determination was instrumental in its construction.

We also recognise the efforts of those who have preserved and restored it, ensuring it remains a cornerstone of our community.

Today's celebration brings together people with deep connections to Memorial Hall.

We are privileged to share this event with local centenarians and their carers, a living link to the hall's century-long history.

We also acknowledge and thank the City of Cockburn RSL Sub-Branch, the Historical Society of Cockburn, and the many families whose ties to the hall stretch back generations.

This centenary is not just about looking back but also about embracing the future.

The tribute piece which will be embroidered with the names of our guests here today and inspired by an original 1940s embroidered tablecloth on display in the adjacent gallery will preserve today's memories for future generations.

The exhibition reminds us of our shared heritage and the importance of honouring our past as we build our future.

Before I conclude, I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone who has made today possible.

To our event organisers, volunteers, and the dedicated team at the City of Cockburn — thank you for bringing this celebration to life.

I now invite His Excellency, the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM, Governor of Western Australia, to come forward to receive a gift from the City of Cockburn and its community to acknowledge and thank him for his participation in today's historical event.

Thank you.