

**Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP**  
**Cockburn Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony**  
**Administration Building Courtyard**  
**Friday, 19 April 2024**

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Thank you Ash (Ash Nelson, Channel 10 Sports Reporter and former Hockeyroo)

Kaya Wonju (Hello and Welcome)

Thank you for joining us here tonight as we announce and celebrate our next cohort of inductees into the City of Cockburn Sports Hall of Fame.

I acknowledge and thank Nick Abraham for his Welcome to Country as he shared the culture, knowledge, and language of the Nyungar people in a heart-warming and meaningful way.

I acknowledge the Whadjuk people of the Nyungar Nation who are the traditional custodians of the land on which we are meeting tonight, and I pay respect to their Elders past and present and I extend that respect to First Nation people here tonight.

I acknowledge:

- Mr Brendon Allenby - State Manager Membership Services, Professional Golf Association WA;
- Simon Eastaugh (East tor)- Head of Community Engagement, Fremantle Football Club;
- Anthony Radich - CEO Perth Glory;
- Joseph Marafioti (Mara Fioti) – Chief Operating Officer Perth Glory
- 2024 inductees and their guests and previous inductees here tonight;
- City of Cockburn Elected Members

- Deputy Mayor Cr Chontelle Stone
- Councillor Philip Eva JP
- Councillor Phoebe Corke
- Councillor Tarun Dewan
- My wife Patricia;
- City of Cockburn staff
  - CEO Daniel Simms and his wife Debbie;
  - Anton Lees - Director Community and Place
  - Andrew Tomlinson – Head of Recreation
  - Dean Burton – Manager Recreation Services
  - Fiona Gardener – Community Development Manager
  - Claudia Wells – Club Development Officer
  - Sonia Farr;
  - Lucy Atkinson;
  - Bianca Stockwell;
  - Ray Dorey;
  - Rob Ducali;
  - Kevin Muir;

Cockburn has a long history of producing outstanding athletes and the hall of fame preserves this social and cultural heritage for our community.

The City of Cockburn launched the Hall of Fame in 2004 and since then we have recognised twenty-one local athletes and one sports administrator.

Each are honoured with plaques adorning the pillars of the City's administration building here in Spearwood and at Cockburn ARC, our world class sporting facility at Cockburn Central.

Recognising sporting achievement at the highest level, our previous inductees include Olympians, AFL legends and award-winning coaches across a wide variety of sports from soccer to gymnastics, lawn bowls to sailing, darts to motocross and more.

A special welcome to our previous inductees with us this evening:

- Ben Rowe, one of our newest inductees from 2021, being a tough national and international competitor and medallist in the sport of Goalball, and being the driving force behind starting the State Sporting Organisation Goalball WA. (Goalball is a team sport played indoors by athletes with vision impairment).
- Soa Palelei (Soa Palaway), also a 2021 inductee, competing in Mixed Martial Arts, Ju Jitsu and wrestling, twice crowned the Heavyweight Australian Fighting Champion, three-time world champion and four-time Ultimate Fighting Championship winner. He now draws on his life experiences as a dedicated advocate for those with mental health needs.
- Matt Battista was inducted in 2017 in the sport of motocross, 25-time State Champion, a National and 1993 World Grand Prix Motocross Australia. Matt was also the 2007 WA Superbike State Champion, and for over a decade held the Wanneroo Raceway's lap record of 57.11 seconds, which he achieved in 2006.

Five of our inaugural inductees from 2004 are here tonight:

- Fran Maunton, who had been playing lacrosse for over 20 years when she was inducted as a member of the 1982 Australian World

Cup Team and a State Team Member for seven years, and continues to champion the sport with Phoenix Lacrosse Club at Goodchild Park.

- Christine Dorey, a five-time Wimbledon singles player, and three-time Australian Open quarter-finalist, Christine was the first Australian woman to qualify in a grand slam event and reach the semi-finals.
- John Denic, also representing the sport of lacrosse, representing WA as a player and coach, coaching five National Premiership teams and three-time Australian Head Coach for the Lacrosse World Series.
- Steve Srhoy, a 1994 Commonwealth Games silver medallist in lawn bowls, as well as multiple state awards over 3 decades, and both gold and silver medals at the Asia Pacific Championships.
- Graeme Benthien,

Represented WA eight times in cycling track event, and was a world Veterans Cycling champion in 1982, 84, and 1987. He was also a foundation member of the Western Australian Veterans Cycling Council

- The Family of Alan Beale (1921-2001) – Alan was also one of our inaugural inductees, originally hailing from London and arriving at Fremantle Port in 1924 at the age of three. His name has been tightly woven into the fabric of local soccer history since 1936, representing WA for the latter half of the 1940's and twice named WA Soccer Player of the Year.

This year is a special celebration, we are honouring two milestones with a more formal occasion for our induction ceremony tonight.

- 2024 marks the twentieth year of the Cockburn Sports Hall of Fame.

- And this year we received a record number of exceptional nominations – thankyou to all those nominated or people that submitted nominations.

The City of Cockburn is a magnet for families and lifestyle hunters who want to live, work, and play here and our community is well-served by some of the State’s best recreation and leisure facilities including;

- The Cockburn ARC, home to the Dockers
- The Cockburn Ice Arena
- Lakeland Hockey and Sporting Facility
- And we manage and maintain more than eight hundred hectares of public open spaces and over four hundred parks and reserves.

Recreation and sporting facilities add immeasurably to the vibrancy, culture, lifestyle and desirability of Cockburn and we are committed to ensuring they are maintained and improved for the benefit of all.

We are well on the way to delivering more facilities for our community with over \$60m worth of investment in major projects completed or underway;

- the Cockburn ARC and Fremantle Dockers expansion,
- the Cockburn Coast oval,
- the Frankland Park Sport and Community Facility construction and
- the Beale Park Sporting and Community Facility upgrades.

The Cockburn Sports Hall of Fame aims to recognise and promote the outstanding sporting achievements of athletes and sport administrators who currently or have previously resided in the City of Cockburn.

Inductees demonstrate a consistent high standard of elite level sport performance at a national or international level.

When we consider for a moment the time, dedication and resilience required to realise these incredible sporting accolades we must also recognise the personal qualities that have led to their success.

We thank you all for your contribution to our community through your work on and off the sporting field and most importantly the inspiration you have and continue to provide for our next generation of sports people.

For those athletes still competing, good luck with your sporting goals and future endeavours.

In conclusion, I am incredibly proud to be representing the City of Cockburn as we induct fourteen new members of our local community into the Cockburn Sports Hall of Fame later this evening.

I invite everyone to visit both the administration centre and the ARC to reflect on the achievements of all the inductees. You will shortly be able to find a complete list of all thirty-six on our website.

Before I go, I would like also to acknowledge there are many more athletes deserving of recognition in our community – the next round of nominations is due to open late 2026. Please encourage others to nominate so we can recognise them also.

Thank you and continue to enjoy the evening.