



CITY OF VINCENT

## MEDIA STATEMENT – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### ***Vincent icon turns 50! Beatty Park anniversary celebrations, opening of outdoor pools and launch of commemorative book***

Beatty Park celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary next week and holding two major events: the official opening of the outdoor pools and launch of the new commemorative book: 'Beatty Park - celebrating the first fifty years: 1962-2012'.

Beatty Park played a central role in the development of swimming and aquatic sports in Western Australia, both in education and at an elite level. Beatty Park (then the City of Perth Aquatic Centre) hosted the very first swimming event of the VIIth British Empire and Commonwealth Games on 22 November 1962.

Mayor Alannah MacTiernan says, "It was a tremendous challenge for Perth to take on the staging of the 1962 Games. With our isolation and a community of less than 500,000 people, we had almost no sports facilities of an international standard and had never staged a major sporting event on this scale.

"But the city was on the cusp of its biggest growth spurt since the 1890s and was keen to become something more than a big country town. Perth responded by building the best facilities yet provided for the Games, mounting the biggest publicity campaign in Games history and attracting one of the largest audiences ever to witness the Games," said the Mayor.

On Thursday 22 November, the City of Vincent will hold a special function alongside the new outdoor pool. As well as music and other festivities, Vincent Mayor Alannah MacTiernan will officially open the 50-metre 10-lane outdoor pool, firing a starter pistol to signal swimmers from Aranmore Catholic College and Mount Hawthorn Primary School in a friendly race – the first in the new pool. The Mayor will detail the scope of the \$17million redevelopment and launch the new commemorative book: 'Beatty Park - celebrating the first fifty years: 1962-2012'.

Shelly Taylor-Smith, seven-time World No.1 Women's Marathon Swimming Champion, will address the crowd, recalling her many days training at Beatty Park which helped her achieve the No.1 world ranking for both men and women. Also in attendance will be many locals, historians and book contributors, alongside dignitaries, Olympians and other sportspeople, plus past and current employees of Beatty Park and the City of Vincent.

A perennial pool-for-the-people, Beatty Park is also holding an [Open Day for the local community](#) on Sunday 25 November, 11am – 3pm, with free pool entry to the outdoor and indoor pools a range of free entertainment and activities.

There will be professional face and body painters, glitter tattoos and funky hair artists; living statues in period bathing costumes; roving entertainers and performers; swashbuckling roaming pirates and 'The Admirals', a two-man pirate and boat show. Young kids will love the singing and dancing show by Josephine and Goggles the Goose, and enjoy getting creative with our Bubble Magic workshop.

The Ayers Rock Surf Life Saving Club Show will entertain everyone via the main stage with their special blend of acrobatics, slapstick comedy, Charleston, juggling, hula-hoops, deckchair balancing and audience interaction. And of course, there will be a variety of food and drink available for purchase (with some giveaways too!).

The Open Day offers free entry to the brand new outdoor pool. The last major refurbishment of the Centre took place in the 1990s; the new redevelopment will once again propel Beatty Park to the forefront of aquatic sports and leisure facilities. For full details [click here](#) – or see further below for an overview of the seven-years-in-the-making redevelopment:

A brand new two-level building will be constructed on the eastern side of the complex, overlooking Beatty Park Reserve. The heritage-listed façade of the complex will not be affected by the redevelopment.

- New entrance
- New Café and Retail Shop
- New Gym with all new equipment
- Two new Group Fitness rooms
- New toilet/change area
- Refurbished Swim School
- Minor upgrade to administration offices to enable these offices to be leased to recreation and associated professionals
- Upgrade of existing toilets and changerooms
- Disabled access ceiling hoist, adult changetable, new accessible change-rooms and ramp to 50m pool
- Addition of extra family and accessible changerooms and cubicles
- Installation of lift in new 2-level building
- Upgrade universal access and traffic flow within the existing car park

Pool upgrades:

- Upgrade of existing 50m x 8 lane outdoor pool by installing a new 50m x 10 lane pool with a depth to suit a number of activities
- Upgrade of existing 30m outdoor pool by reducing the depth to 2m and re-tiling
- Add 12m x 12m learners' outdoor pool on western side
- Indoor pool has been re-tiled pool and new children's water features added

New geothermal heating system: a geothermal bore will be installed which will allow hot groundwater to be circulated through heat exchangers to heat all outdoor pools and the indoor pool hall. A 30kW solar power system will also be installed along with other environmentally-friendly design features.

General works:

- Upgrade of existing water treatment plant and plant room
- Repainting of indoor pool interior and exterior
- Repainting and general maintenance to be undertaken on the existing grandstand
- Upgrade lawn and landscaping areas to outdoor pool area.

**Ends**

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