



# PRIME MINISTER

EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERY

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

OPENING OF THE GORDON PERLSTEIN PAVILION  
WEST COBURG - 14 FEBRUARY 1987

MR MAYOR, COUNCILLORS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

HAVING KNOWN GORDON PERLSTEIN FOR SOME TIME, I WAS DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE YOUR INVITATION TO OPEN THIS PAVILION NAMED IN HIS HONOUR.

BEFORE I DECLARE THE PAVILION OPEN I WANT TO ELABORATE A LITTLE ON GORDON'S BACKGROUND, BECAUSE HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THIS CITY, STATE AND INDEED NATION DATES BACK MANY YEARS.

GORDON JOINED THE VICTORIAN RAILWAYS IN 1941 AT THE AGE OF 14 AS A LABOURER AND WAS APPRENTICED AS A FITTER AND TURNER IN 1942.

- . HE MUST HAVE BEEN GOOD AT IT BECAUSE HE BECAME THE YOUNGEST APPOINTED SUPERVISOR IN THE ROLLING STOCK DIVISION OF THE VICTORIAN RAILWAYS AT THE AGE OF 25.
  
- . OVER THE NEXT 40 YEARS GORDON WORKED IN EVERY COUNTRY DEPOT OF VICTORIAN RAILWAYS, FINISHING HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AS AN INSPECTOR OF LOCOMOTIVE MAINTENANCE, THE SECOND TOP RANK IN THE SERVICE.

GORDON ALSO GOT INVOLVED IN UNION WORK AT AN EARLY AGE AND HE BECAME MINUTE SECRETARY OF THE THEN AMALGAMATED ENGINEERING UNION AT 15.

- . HE WENT ON TO BECOME A STATE COUNCILLOR, A VICE PRESIDENT AND THEN PRESIDENT OF THE VICTORIAN DIVISION OF THE AUSTRALIAN TRANSPORT OFFICERS FEDERATION. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY A TERM AS NATIONAL COUNCILLOR AND NATIONAL PRESIDENT FROM 1983 TO 1985.

THANKS TO THIS LIFETIME OF SERVICE TO THE UNION MOVEMENT, GORDON WAS AWARDED THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA MEDAL IN 1985.

IN ADDITION TO ALL THIS, GORDON HAS BEEN KEENLY INVOLVED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY OF COBURG.

THIS WAS A LIFETIME'S INTEREST, WHICH HE CAPPED OFF IN 1980 WITH HIS ELECTION TO COUNCIL. SINCE THEN HE HAS SERVED ON MANY OF ITS COMMITTEES AND IS OF COURSE CURRENTLY MAYOR OF THE CITY OF COBURG.

WITH A CAREER LIKE THAT, IT IS A WONDER GORDON HAD ANY TIME FOR SPORT, BUT HE WAS INVOLVED IN ROWING FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, BOTH AS AN OARSMAN AND IN AN ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY AT THE YARRA YARRA CLUB.

AS FOR SHORE RESERVE, HOME OF WEST COBURG FOOTBALL CLUB, I KNOW IT HAS NOT ONLY BEEN THE BASE OF A LONG LINE OF PREMIERSHIP WINNERS AT BOTH JUNIOR AND SENIOR LEVELS, BUT HAS ALSO PRODUCED A NUMBER OF LEAGUE PLAYERS, MAINLY FOR NORTH MELBOURNE, ESSENDON AND CARLTON.

A RECENT CHANGE AT THE GROUND HAS SEEN THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CONCRETE CRICKET PITCH, WHICH HAS ALLOWED JUNIOR CRICKET TO BE PLAYED HERE WITH ALMOST AS MUCH SUCCESS AS THE FOOTBALL CLUB.

IT IS GOOD TO NOTE THE SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION BETWEEN BOTH THE FOOTBALL AND CRICKET CLUBS, WHICH HAVE WORKED TO ESTABLISH THE NEW PAVILION AND WILL SHARE ITS FACILITIES.

THE GORDON PERLSTEIN PAVILION WAS BUILT AT A COST OF \$186,000, OF WHICH THE COUNCIL CONTRIBUTED \$160,000. WITH THE REST BEING PROVIDED BY THE WEST COBURG FOOTBALL CLUB.

A PAVILION SUCH AS THIS DOES NOT SPRING UP OVERNIGHT, AND WHAT WE SEE BEFORE US TODAY IS THE RESULT OF A LOT OF HARD WORK BY MANY PEOPLE.

- . IN PARTICULAR, CONGRATULATIONS MUST GO TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE FOOTBALL CLUB, GERRY CUDMORE, AND TO HIS HARDWORKING COMMITTEE.
- . SPECIAL RECOGNITION MUST ALSO GO TO RON CASSELLS WHO THIS YEAR IS CELEBRATING 50 YEARS SERVICE TO AND SUPPORT OF THE WEST COBURG FOOTBALL CLUB - AN OUTSTANDING RECORD.

THIS IS A FINE PAVILION THAT WILL SERVE THE CLUBS AND LOCAL SPORTING PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF COBURG AND THE SURROUNDING AREA FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.

I COMMEND THE COUNCIL AND THE CLUB'S INITIATIVE IN CONSTRUCTING IT. IN NAMING IT AFTER GORDON PERLSTEIN YOU HAVE RECOGNISED A CONTRIBUTION TO THIS CITY AND BEYOND WHICH HAS BEEN SO GREAT OVER MANY YEARS.

- . IT NOW GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO OFFICIALLY DECLARE OPEN THE GORDON PERLSTEIN PAVILION.

\*\*\*\*\*