

**Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett JP**  
**Official Opening of Greg Baker's**  
**Home – Living in a Lightscape Exhibition'**  
**and works by Greg James, Sculptor**  
**6.30pm - Monday 15 March, 2021**  
**Coogee Beach Surf Life Saving Club**

---

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, girls and boys.

I am delighted to be here this evening with my wife Patricia and Councillor Kevin Allen and his wife Deborah to officially open the Home – Living in a Lightscape Exhibition by the inspirational artist Greg Baker and also showcasing the works of the renowned sculptor, Greg James.

I acknowledge the Whadjup people of the Nyungar nation who are the traditional custodians of the land on which we are gathered tonight and I pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

The Coogee Beach Surf Life Saving Club is the perfect venue to showcase all that is great about living in a coastal community whether it be at a formal or casual event.

The idyllic setting in the season of Binuru or Autumn provides for outstanding sunsets overlooking the crystal clear waters of Coogee Beach.

On weekends, in particular, the Club is alive with people of all ages enjoying the social amenities, the training and other learning opportunities in surf life-saving, patrolling the beaches and offering assistance where required.

Greg Baker and Greg James have chosen wisely in terms of timing and location reflecting the true essence of the art form that we see before us.

The COVID – 19 pandemic frustrated many of our plans for 2020 and it seems we are still captured by the vagaries of the virus this year.

Virus hot spots and border closures remain a real threat to our day to day lives however in some respects it has provided us with opportunities to reflect on our home lives, family and friends and how we might invest our time going forward.

Tonight's Exhibition by Greg and Greg indicates where they have chosen to invest their time for the past twelve months while being confined to quarters for want of a better term.

I know that they have previously exhibited together in Berlin – what a wonderful city with its wide open streets, a mixture of the built and natural environment, friendly hospitable people, amazing music, song & dance and of course, food and wine.

The Greg and Greg exhibition has captured the spirit of the seaside, the salt air, tides, wind and rain, the endless shaping of the sands, the cloud formations; and at days end the spectacular sunsets and transition to moonlit nights and stars showing us the way forward.

It is amazing that you hear time after time about a person's experience with the education system. Not suited to that, couldn't possible succeed in that vocation. Suggest they do this or that.

This was the experience of Greg Baker as he found his way in the world – art college – graphic design – fine art – completing a mechanical fitting apprenticeship – a mechanical engineering diploma – then turning a full circle back to where he always wanted to be – drawing and painting fulltime.

A leap of faith saw Greg sell three of his first paintings at the Paul Rigby Gallery and he hasn't looked back.

Greg Baker has painted more than 70 solo exhibitions and many more group shows across Australia and overseas and says he still has the compulsion to paint, learning something new every day.

Greg James is recognised as Fremantle's foremost sculptor with sculptures such as 'Bella', Bon Scott, The Fishermen on the Wharf, Pietro Porcelli in Kings Square and many other public and private installations.

Ladies and gentlemen, girls and boys what an amazing array of talent before us tonight.

I now have great pleasure in officially opening the Home – Living in a Lightscape Exhibition by Greg Baker and complimented by the sculptures created by Greg James.

Thank you.