

Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP
Council for the Ageing Award Presentation to
Ron Hetherington – Best Walk Leader WA Award
Cockburn Gateway Shopping Centre, Success
Tuesday, 7 March 2017

Good morning ladies and gentlemen.

I am delighted to be here this morning on the occasion of Ron Hetherington, being announced as the winner of the Best Walk Leader Award.

It's always a pleasure to see fit, healthy and fun loving walkers out enjoying themselves and sitting down and enjoying themselves following their walks.

I acknowledge the Whadjup People of the Nyungar Nation, the Custodians of the Land on which we are gathered today and I pay respect to their elders both past and present.

I extend that respect to Indigenous Australians who may be with us today.

I acknowledge:

- Phil Airey, Active Ageing Manager, Council for the Ageing;
- Ron Hetherington and all the members of the Cockburn Gateway Shopping City Walking Group;
- Andrew and Casey representing the Cockburn Gateway Shopping City; and
- Mall Walkers from the Garden City Shopping Centre.

Ron Hetherington, along with his wife Marian was one of the first two volunteers to become Mall Walking Leaders for Cockburn Gateway's Mall Walking Group. He was (and is) an established leader at Garden City Shopping Centre and looked forward to starting a brand new group in his local area.

Cockburn Gateway now have a hearty group of 20 regular and loyal Walkers with the best regular attendance rate per Walker of any of the groups year round.

How much this comes down to Ron's leadership style is unknown, but his sense of humour, extremely entertaining style of welcoming the Walk Group, technical perfection at stretches, and boisterous manner creates an convivial atmosphere at Cockburn Gateway that can be best described as a party every Tuesday morning.

The COTA Mall Walking program is sincerely honoured to have Ron providing the very best Walk Leading in Western Australia.

Congratulations Ron on your achievement.