

**Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett JP**  
**Official Opening of Show Off 15 Art Exhibition**  
**at the Hamilton Hill Memorial Hall**  
**on Friday, 5 April 2019**

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Good evening ladies & gentlemen, girls and boys.

On behalf of the elected members, staff and the very talented artists of the City of Cockburn I am pleased to welcome you to the Show Off 15 Art Exhibition.

I thank Marie Taylor, for providing her heartfelt 'Welcome to Country' tonight.

Marie, your words resonate on the journey we are on in terms of reconciliation, some would say; conciliation.

To me it is a journey of learning, understanding, reflection, and in the end, commitment to 'close the gap' enabling a better life for the first people of our nation and our entire community.

It is by sharing our thoughts, stories, experiences and understandings where the true value of our contributions can be reflected in our communities, our peoples and particularly our children.

I acknowledge the Wadjuk people of the Nyungar Nation the traditional custodians of the land on which we are gathered tonight and I pay respect to their Elders, both past and present and extend that respect to Indigenous Australians who are with us tonight.

Ladies and gentlemen, girls and boys; I acknowledge the presence of:

- Deputy Mayor Smith OAM and her guest Caz Parker;
- Cr Kevin Allen and his wife Debra;
- Cr Carol Reeve-Fowkes and her husband Martin;
- Cr Chontelle Sands and her partner David;
- Cr Kirkwood and her guest John Higgins;
- My wife Patricia;
- Cassandra Cooper, the City's Art & Cultural Coordinator and the curator for the 'Show Off 15 Art Exhibition together with Miles Carpenter;
- Our incredibly talented Cockburn artists, who demonstrate their individual creativity and love for the arts with works on paper, canvas and board, to our sculptors, weavers, to those who create using wood, glass & ceramics – we are truly blessed to have you in our community;
- Ladies and gentlemen, girls and boys - one and all.

Some of you will know that the City of Cockburn staged the first Show Off exhibition in 2003 with the sole intention of 'showing off' to the broader community that Cockburn is the place artists are choosing to live.

Since then, the event has captured the heart of local artists, both established and new and continues to grow in terms of the number of artists, the number and variety of exhibits, and importantly, its stature in the Cockburn community.

The exhibitions started in the former Civic Centre which is now the Cockburn Seniors Centre with less than thirty artists.

This venue has become the City's art and cultural centre with the ability to host exhibitions, performances and all manner of art and cultural activities.

The established artists who live in Cockburn have increased their profile over the years taking every opportunity to exhibit their works.

Many of them participated in the first Show Off exhibition and we welcome them back again as we do the new artists in this year's exhibition.

Artists are important members of a community because of their ability to see and capture moments, to portray the stories of our world visually and provide for others to see and relate to these images.

This year there are 65 artists participating in Show Off 15.

We look forward to seeing the new works of all our artists who range from some of WA's best known and well respected artists along with new upcoming and emerging artists all exhibiting together and all proudly Cockburn residents.

Nine are first time exhibitors with each bringing some very traditional styles along with some bright, colourful and fun works.

This year's artists are exhibiting works on paper, canvas, board, sculptural pieces, glass, stone, silk, ceramics, traditional, contemporary and everything in between.

*Exhibitions such as this are not possible* without the dreams of individuals backed up by hard work and persistence.

Cassandra Cooper, the City's Art & Cultural Coordinator and the curator for the Show Off 15 Art Exhibition has again worked diligently behind the scenes to ensure the success of tonight's exhibition.

Cassandra has been ably supported in the curator's role by Miles Carpenter and we thank him for his continued contribution to the Arts in Cockburn and further afield.

Thank you to all the artists for choosing to live in Cockburn and for bringing your wealth of talent into our community for all to see and share.

Thank you to the volunteers from our Art World who have stepped forward once again to ensure the exhibition is able to open to the public over the coming week.

As I move to open **Show Off 15** I take this opportunity to thank you all for participating either in offering works for exhibition or coming to view these works and thereby immersing yourselves in the amazing array and diversity of work on display.

Ladies and gentlemen, girls and boys;

I declare SHOW OFF 15 officially open.

Please enjoy.