

**Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP**

**Official Opening – Show Off 16 Take Two**

**Hamilton Hill Memorial Hall**

**Friday, 19 March 2021**

---

Kia Wonju

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, girls & boys to Show Off Take Two.

Bunuru or Autumn certainly has given us a variety of weather this year. Represented by the colour orange it is the hottest time of the year – and given today's weather I would have to agree.

I am delighted to be here with my wife Patricia and

Councillor Philip Eva JP;

Councillor Chontelle Stone;

Councillor Michael Separovich; and

Councillor Phoebe Corke;

to officially open Show Off Take Two.

I thank Marie Taylor for her Welcome to Country providing us with further insights into the Nyungar Culture and all it has to offer our community.

Marie thank you for sharing the dream time stories with us as we continue our journey of reconciliation walking side by side in this magnificent land we call Australia.

I acknowledge the Whadjup people of the Nyungar nation the traditional custodians of the land on which we have gathered and I pay my respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with us tonight.

I acknowledge:

Mr Tony Brun, CEO, City of Cockburn;

Ms Cassandra Cooper, Art & Culture Coordinator together with Miles Carpenter who have jointly curated tonight's exhibition;

Ms Kate Roberts, Artsource;

Ms Eunice Mitussis & Ms Biruta McLaughlin - Artzplace;

Mr Bill Wallington, President Cockburn Community & Cultural Council;

Marie Taylor, Nyungar Elder;

Participating artists;

Ladies and gentlemen, girls and boys.

Show Off first began in 2003 and for the first three Show Offs they occurred every second year.

It was soon apparent that with the exhibitions popularity an annual event was necessary.

The premise of Show Off has always been to Show Off the amazing talent of the artists who have chosen to live within the boundaries of the City of Cockburn.

Of course 2020 threw us a curve ball in COVID 19 and we had to cancel four days out from opening.

Since then we have been living in a world of insecurity around events, never knowing if and when.

The fact that we are all here celebrating Show Off 16 (take Two) shows how far we have come in the last twelve months both in Cockburn, the broader Western Australia community and Australia that we can have an event such as this opening.

We have made some tweaks to how we do our opening to give us more room and we encourage people to social distance as they enjoy Show Off – take two. COVID 19 has meant we have had to rethink so much of what and how we do things so we are taking advantage of opportunities not considered previously such as taking Show Off 16 to a broader audience via the web.

From our early small beginnings where we had 19 artists participating we have grown to include 68 local artists in the 2021 Show Off 16 take two exhibition.

We have a small core group who have been a part of the Show Off family from the beginning, we welcome fifteen new artists and several other artists who are returning after a time away along with the remaining amazing talent that will make up Show Off 16 – take two.

Since we began 775 artists have participated showcasing over 1900 incredible works of art.

This show isn't possible without the support of the artists and curators Cassandra & Miles Carpenter who have the job of sorting all the works into a visual treat. This year a special thanks goes to the communications team at the City who have worked very hard on Show Off – take two from the amazing invitations to all the collateral, advertising and catalogues etc but they have also put in many hours developing an online presence for Show off 16 take two and this will go live from Monday 22 March until 31 March.

The online exhibition imagery will be thanks to Paul McGovern who has put in a lot of time photographing the exhibition these past few days and he is here again tonight to capture the opening as well.

Artzplace a local arts group will be looking after the exhibition during the week so thank you for your assistance as well.

For those viewing the exhibition I hope you enjoy getting to know the work created by these incredibly talented artists we have living within the City of Cockburn as much as I have.

The works exhibited in Show Off Take two are always as varied as the artists who have created them.

We have works on paper, canvas, board, glass, stone, yarn, ceramics, traditional, contemporary and everything in between.

Thank you to all the artists who are participating whether for the first time or who have been here for many or all of the Show Offs.

We value your talent and your choice in choosing Cockburn as your home.

I now have great pleasure in declaring open the Show Off Take Two Exhibition – please enjoy.

