

Cockburn Community & Cultural Council

35th Anniversary Morning Tea

Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP

Speech

Function Room – Administration Building,

City of Cockburn

Wednesday, 25 November 2009

Good morning and welcome to the City of Cockburn on the occasion of the Cockburn Community & Cultural Council's 35th anniversary celebrations.

I would like to acknowledge the Noongar people who are the Traditional Custodians of the Land on which we have gathered today and to pay respect to the Elders both past and present of the Noongar Nation and extend that respect to other Indigenous Australians who may be present.

I would now like to formally acknowledge and welcome:

- Bill Wallington, President, Cockburn Community & Cultural Council and his wife Maxine;
- Members of the Cultural Council & members of their Affiliated Organisations
- Arlene Crane who together with Elaine Ives and the late Valda Ellement have had the privilege bestowed upon them of life membership of the Cultural Council
- Mr Tony Armarego, Patron and his wife Elsie
 - Councillor Val Oliver
 - Mr Don Green, Director Administration & Community Services
 - Cassandra Cooper, Cultural Development Coordinator
 - Friends, one and all.

Those of us that are blessed with the skills and ability to create wonderful pieces of art whether it is on canvas or in other mediums are too be admired; as are those that create craftwork that captures our imagination and leads to the enjoyment of children and adults of all ages.

Importantly, how we manage and promote events to showcase the rich and diverse talents of our community can be demanding on the time of those who have the passion and driving ambition to get involved at the grassroots community level.

Today I want to reflect on and acknowledge several people in particular who have provided the forum for the promotion and display of arts and crafts in Cockburn.

Tony Armarego

In 1974 Tony Armarego, the then Town Clerk decided that it was time for the City to sponsor the creation of a community organisation that would promote the cultural aspects of the district.

Following a community meeting the Cockburn Community and Cultural Council emerged in May 1974 for that very purpose.

Since that time Tony Armarego has been a strong supporter and advocate of the Cultural Council and today continues as its Patron and auditor.

Arlene Crane

Arlene carried out the role of Secretary of the Cultural Council for over 30 years and for all of that time was one of the main organisers of the annual Arts & Crafts Exhibition.

Bill Wallington

Bill has been the President of the Cultural Council for most of its 35 years and continues on as a passionate supporter of people of all ages getting involved in activities that showcase the many talented people in our community and their work.

From the Arts & Cultural Exhibition, Art in the Park, exhibitions of the work of school children in the district, encouraging cultural activities generally for the youth of our district and many more activities over the years Bill has been the one person who has lead from the front.

Bill the community owes you a debt of gratitude for your leadership and importantly your desire to ensure the opportunities for others to express their artistic talents in the public area.

I also want to pay tribute to Maxine Wallington – as the saying goes; behind every man doing good in the community is a woman. Maxine you have been a staunch supporter of the Cultural Council and we thank you for that commitment.

Cassandra Cooper, Cultural Development Coordinator

Up front and centre; when things happen in Cockburn that are culturally related Cassandra Cooper is there.

Cassandra you have an enviable reputation for getting things done using your skill, knowledge and passion to co-ordinate the volunteers in our community to achieve great things.

Tony, Arlene and Bill along with a host of other people have fulfilled their voluntary roles, and I stress voluntary roles, for the sake of promoting arts and craft in our district with distinction.

They remain today, as they did over 30 years ago, as strong advocates for the promotion of cultural activities in our district.

I thank you for being here today and personally thank each and every one of you for the contribution you have and continue to make in Cockburn.

In closing, I wish you all a happy and safe festive season and a 2010 that realises your personal dreams and aspirations and those of your family.

Thank you!