

## **Message from the Mayor - National Volunteer Week 2020**

As we celebrate National Volunteer Week under the restrictions of the COVID – 19 pandemic our heartfelt message from elected members and staff at the City of Cockburn is one of praise and respect for what each and every volunteer within our City does for the common good.

I know the valuable contribution that volunteers bring day-in-and day-out to the community groups, residents groups, sporting clubs, service and cultural organisations, faith groups, schools, aged care facilities, the seniors' centres and so many more places of activity where we love to gather.

We have just entered phase 2 of the COVID – 19 recovery journey and together we are following the road map set by our federal and state governments and their medical advisers.

However, there still remains the precautionary approach where hand hygiene, social distancing and common sense prevail, particularly for those in the vulnerable categories where age, underlying medical problems or being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent present higher risks.

Cockburn is renowned for its volunteering and the benefits it brings to the health and well-being of our community and importantly in today's world, our mental health.

Today is WOW Day with a focus on our State Emergency Service volunteers who are instantly recognisable in their orange uniforms.

They respond to damage to property and infrastructure caused by cyclones, storms, floods, bushfires and the like.

You'll also see them called in to assist in searching for missing persons, rescue missions in rugged terrain through to the management of car parking at events and educational activities to inform the community of the vital role they play throughout the year.

If you know someone who is passionate about volunteering then please refer them to the City's Volunteer Resource Centre located in the Seniors Centre adjacent to the Spearwood Library.

So keep up the good work and stay safe and always remember that your volunteering efforts are valued and appreciated more than you know.