

Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP
Official Opening of the Cockburn Art Group
Art Exhibition
Memorial Hall, Hamilton Hill
Friday 16 April 2021

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, girls and boys.

My wife Patricia and I are delighted to join with you on this very special occasion as we acknowledge and recognise the artistic talents of the members of the Cockburn Art Group.

It is also a time to reflect on the recent passing of one of the group's members, Frances Stone, who sadly died before the exhibition could be opened.

Frances was a valued and respected member of the Cockburn Art Group and the legacy she has left behind will forever influence the Groups' future.

The round room is a fitting place to celebrate the exhibitor's work and we all know that Frances would have loved to be sharing this moment with us.

I acknowledge the Whadjuk People of the Nyungar Nation, the traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on tonight and I pay respect to their elders past, present and emerging and extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are with us tonight.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were the first to create art on our continent. Their work goes back tens of thousands of years and is reflected in various forms – the most evident to us in the form of ‘rock art’.

The artists who are exhibiting here tonight are using different mediums that include watercolours, acrylics, oil painting and sculptures.

To the other attendees thank you for being here tonight – whether you are family members, friends of the artists or share the love of immersing yourself in the arts there is sure to be an opportunity for you to view and critique the artwork and to make a purchase or two.

Cockburn is blessed with a talented group of long time artists, and importantly, an emerging group who add to the variety and expression of the Arts.

We know the Cockburn Art Group meet each Wednesday for three hours each time to create and discuss their art and of course to grow friendships, to learn from each other, and to share in the pride and joy of exhibiting their works.

This exhibition continues through the weekend with opening hours of 10.00am to 4.00pm on each day.

At this point I think it is appropriate to observe a minutes silence in remembrance of Frances – a member of the Cockburn Arts Group and overwhelmingly someone who captured the hearts and minds of all who were graced with her presence – someone who reflected her journey through life with a love of family, friends, and the community.

Ladies and gentlemen, girls and boys, I have much pleasure in officially opening the Cockburn Art Groups Art Exhibition and to invite you to view the exhibition.

Thank you.