

**Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP**  
**Official Opening - Artzplace Art Exhibition**  
**Hamilton Hill Memorial Hall**  
**Friday, 21 June 2024**

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Kaya Wonju (Hello and Welcome)

Welcome to the Official Opening of the Artzplace Art Exhibition; an exhibition that personifies the creative talents of our local artists and showcases their personal commitment and passion for the Arts.

It also establishes the group as an important part of the Arts scene in Cockburn having been formed in 2006 and like most artistic endeavours experienced the COVID pandemic where their creativity came to the fore and today we see Artzplace gaining new members and returning to a level of normality.

I acknowledge the Whadjup people of the Nyungar Nation the traditional custodians of the land on which we are gathering tonight; and I pay my respect to their Elders past and present and I extend that respect to first nation people with us tonight.

I acknowledge:

- Councillor Kevin Allen and his wife Debra and their two grand daughters;
- Councillor Phoebe Corke;
- Councillor Carol Reeve-Fowkes;
- My wife Patricia;
- Robyn Birch, President Artzplace Inc. and the Committee Members;
- Cassandra Cooper, Art & Cultural Co-ordinator, City of Cockburn;
- Bill Wallington, President, Cockburn Community & Cultural Council;
- Raimo Kuparinen ,a foundation member who is currently visiting Perth from New Zealand;
- Supporters of the Arts
- Ladies and gentlemen, one and all.

Artzplace is a volunteer-run community group that aims to foster creativity and participation in visual arts in the local area.

Beginners and experienced artists alike are invited to improve their skills in a supportive environment.

Artzplace role is to provide 'working nights' where members come to work on their art, giving them the opportunity to gather knowledge from each other, foster creativity and enjoy different aspects of art.

Other events and activities throughout the year include retreats, skill development sessions, a service to our community as each year Artzplace assists with the curation of the Cockburn Community & Cultural Council's annual Art Display at the Spearwood Dalmatinac Sport & Community Club and of course their own annual exhibition which provides opportunity for members to display and sell their work.

The operative word is sell – sell – sell.

The Exhibition is open daily from 10.00am to 4.00pm from Saturday 22 June to Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

I encourage art lovers to pop down during these hours to further admire the art work and to engage with the volunteers who give their time during these opening hours – and perhaps purchase a piece of art if you haven't already tonight.

Coincidentally, I have brought my own red dots to stick over the smaller red dots – there's nothing like getting in second.

I now have great pleasure in declaring open the Artzplace Art Exhibition for 2024 – please enjoy and thank you for being here tonight.