**Annual Report from the Chair**

**26th September 2023**

I’m pleased to report that Glyde-In has completed another very satisfactory year. Last year, when then chair Mal Christison gave his report, we were still having problems with COVID. Fortunately, Glyde-In survived COVID and is basically back to normal. We still have warnings for members to stay home if unwell, slightly reduced seating in the Garden Room and some members still choose to wear masks. Our membership numbers dropped off a bit during COVID but are nearly back to pre-COVID levels. I would like to thank our staff for their effort during that difficult time.

This financial year marks the third in the rolling 3-year funding agreement with the Town of East Fremantle. We are really grateful for the continued support from the Town of East Fremantle and for their generous funding grant to Glyde-In. We thank Mayor Jim, the Councillors and the staff for their support

In the financial year 2022 - 2023, we had 4,003 enrolments in 257 courses. We attracted 146 new members, and our current paid membership is around 600.

Our Summer School continues to be popular with 623enrolments in 25 courses last January. The program for the 2024 summer school is currently being produced. We don’t have an enrolment day for Summer School but once it is published in late November members can enrol on line or through the office.

It is time to thank many people. Firstly, I want to thank our Coordinator, Jacqui Reeves. Jacqui has been with us now for 3 years and she certainly has shown us what an efficient, cheerful and helpful coordinator she is. Thanks Jacqui and thank you also for being so patient with me.

Our much-loved Assistant Coordinator Nicky Macdougal, has packed up her walking stick and retired. We will miss her organisational ability and knowledge of all things Glyde-In. Happy retirement Nicky. After the meeting there will be a chance for us to say goodbye to Nicky.

We welcome Celine Brun, our new Assistant Coordinator. Celine joins us with extensive experience in community delivery and administration roles. Nicky spent some time with Celine teaching her the ropes. Celine has fitted in so well and is now a part of our team. If you haven’t already met Celine, please introduce yourself.

This year’s Management Committee was Sandra Bantoft, Mal Christison (Vice Chair), Kerry Donovan (Treasurer), Jono Farmer (Secretary), Gordon Mac Nish (Chair), Terry Mercer, Robert Potts, Viveca Rains, Julie Robertson, Barry Ross, Bronwen St John-Stephens and Jane Vallance. I thank all Committee members for their support and assistance. We are so fortunate to have such good volunteers available to help run Glyde-In.

Just a little special mention of Kerry. As treasurer, she probably has the hardest job of all, trying to keep all those ‘balance sheets’ balanced. Our former Bookkeeper, Joanna Mount, left to pursue a new career in Transcendental Meditation in September 2022. Anna has taken over as our Bookkeeper and is doing an excellent job. Thank you Anna.

I would also like to thank our speakers. Not sure how Jacqui finds them, but our speakers certainly cover lots of interesting topics. Some speakers have told me they like coming to Glyde-In because the people are so knowledgeable and ask such difficult questions.

A big thank you to our hard-working tutors. They provide our members with so many interesting things to learn. My guess is our tutors have quite a lot of homework to do before they arrive and start teaching.

One of the things I love about Glyde-In is passing through the gate and walking down the path through our lovely garden. Thanks to our garden team leader Lynn Christison and all other garden carers. The team also provide some income for Glyde-In by producing and selling many potted plants to members and people passing by.

Other sources of income are from our jam and book sales. We thank our enthusiastic jam, marmalade and chutney makers and our book donators. It is wonderful to have a constant supply of jam available for my morning toast and to use for that small gift.

Our Out & About committee – Mal, Julie, Barry, Viveca, Barbara and Eileen continue to come up with great outings. Thank you, Out & About committee and also thank you to our volunteer drivers and shepherds. We get many comments from our members about how much they enjoy these outings. I went on an Out & About trip to Collie a couple of weeks ago and it was great. Of course, I might be a touch biased, being a Collie kid. It was good to go back with Julie, that other Collie kid.

Where would we be without our volunteer IT expert Craig Johns. It’s a case of when all else fails, don’t restart the computer, just call in Craig. Thank you Craig, you’re a legend.

Thank you to all our volunteers who help with enrolment days, putting out chairs and tables and the general running of Glyde-In. Thank you to Jono for looking after property maintenance, Margaret and helpers for running the mail out of programs and to those volunteers who distribute by hand the programs to local shops etc. . Also thank you to those volunteers who run the Book club, Cycling groups, Glyde-In singers, Mahjong, Scrabble and Thursday walkers.

Thank you to Lesley who does such a great job keeping the cottage so nice and clean.

Lastly, I would like to thank you, our many members, for your loyal support and use of Glyde-In. Our little cottage is a place for learning but it is also a place where you can socialize and interact with other like-minded people.

Being Chair for the last 12 months has been an honour. I wish the next Chair all the best.

Cheers

Gordon Mac Nish