



## Annual Report from the Chair September 2019

This is my first annual report as chair of our Glyde-In Management Committee. How quickly a year passes. Thankfully this role has proven agreeable in every way. I feel part of a strong and united team, dedicated to providing the best possible experience for our members. Our meetings are productive and enjoyable, our committee, staff and volunteers are enthusiastic, capable and committed. I love the vibe I feel whenever I visit the Centre. Our members must feel it too as we've had an outstanding response to our expanded programme, which includes more courses, talks, outings, Summer School, evening and weekend activities.

### **Enrolments**

Annual course enrolments increased by 25% in a single year bringing the total to 4,800 activities by 930 people. This increase is due in part to the improved capacity provided by the Garden Room, the success of our Summer School and our reintroduced Out & About programme. Our 2019 programme was also 30% larger than in 2018 with 83 more activities and 21 more talks. These dry figures represent the real human experience for our members, providing social interactions, learning opportunities, friendship and enjoyment. Therefore, it is fair to say that we make a substantial and growing contribution to the happiness and well-being of our community.

### **Financial Security**

I am happy to report that Glyde-In remains financially secure while seeking to provide the best possible value for our members. Our success is due to the goodwill and support we receive from our members, staff, volunteers and presenters. We could not do it without you and your contribution is greatly appreciated. Our Treasurer, Gordon Whitmore will provide further details.

### **Membership**

Membership increased this year to 750 which is an extraordinary number for any community organisation. East Fremantle resident memberships increased to 149 after we letterboxed every home in the town. We have 137 male members and we are hoping to increase this number with more courses that appeal to men's interests. We also seek to attract working people by providing new evening and weekend activities. We have also developed our Facebook page where members can learn about new events and programmes. Please like us and share us on Facebook. Just search for Glyde-In and choose Glyde-In Community Learning Centre.

## **Town of East Fremantle**

The Town of East Fremantle generously supports Glyde-In, which helps us keep our fees as low as possible. This year the Town has proposed a three-year agreement to confirm our working relationship and our annual funding. We thank Cliff Collinson for his role as Councillor Liaison and his help with today's proceedings. We are truly lucky and grateful to have such a supportive Council.

## **Capital Works**

Council recently voted to provide additional funds to re-clad our lovely cottage and rebuild part of the roof. The cladding will be western red cedar weatherboard to match the Garden Room. These works will commence in October. Jono Farmer will supervise the project and Robin Taylor, who is the successful tenderer, will complete the works. Jono and Robin are the team who built our Garden Room, so we have every confidence in a successful outcome.

## **Out & About**

Our Out & About programme is receiving tremendous support since we resumed arranging the outings. It seems our members prefer tours organised, hosted and driven by our volunteers. In term 3 we organised 9 outings, and 161 people participated. Our most popular event was the Dark Night Tour of Perth Observatory which was fully booked in term 2 and again in term 3. We have a great team of dedicated organisers, shepherds and drivers who work hard arranging these events. It's good to know that our work is appreciated and that so many are enjoying these outings. I particularly want to thank our organising committee, Sandra Bantoft, Glenda Burns and Jono Farmer, who have all done a splendid job. I also serve on this committee and doing so has provided an opportunity to understand the huge volume of work required to organise these outings. We also thank our volunteer drivers and shepherds for making these tours so enjoyable.

## **Summer School**

Our Summer School programme proved a great success with 566 people attending 25 courses. I particularly want to thank Gordon MacNish for making Summer School possible. I think Gordon attended every talk, welcomed everybody, introduced our speakers, kept order and managed logistics. Our fourth Summer School will run from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> of January, and the programme is being created now. It will feature current affairs talks, language intensives, art, cartooning, sacred geometry, movement, craftwork and more.

## **Volunteers**

I wish to thank wonderful volunteers who freely give their valuable time and work so hard to make the Glyde-In a special place to visit and enjoy. Thank you to the Garden Gnomes for creating our beautiful, peaceful environment. Our most recent addition is a raised timber planter box filled with herbs. These are for the benefit of our members. They are not for sale, they are free. Please pick some fresh herbs as you pass by and we hope you enjoy them.

Thank you to Pam Riordan for The Glyder newsletter, which is a most informative read. Thanks to our enrolment team who make our E-Day so productive and enjoyable. Thanks to our coordinators of regular Glyde-In groups – scrabble, mah-jong, walking, 3 cycling groups, chess, and more. Thanks to our maintenance team, our mail-out group, our jam and produce makers and our community quilters, who all do a fantastic job.

I also thank Sue Johnson who worked so hard curating piles of donated books into a well-organised library and book sale, which proved so popular that Sue raised \$750 for Glyde-In. Thank you Sue, for an amazing effort.

## **Life Membership**

Special thanks go to Sue Luke and Craig Johns for their outstanding contributions over many years. In gratitude, our committee resolved to nominate Sue and Craig for Life Memberships, which we will put to the meeting today. We estimate that sales of Sue's delicious jams earned Glyde-In \$10,000 over the past two years. Sadly, Sue has ceased making jam and has passed on her skills to a new group of volunteer jam makers, who can hopefully continue this tradition. Craig has provided many years of most knowledgeable IT support and training for which we are extremely grateful.

## **Thanks to Tutors**

I offer a special thank you to the various groups and individuals who provide the knowledge that makes our Learning Centre a reality. These people are a dedicated group of highly capable people who offer their time and their experience to create intensely stimulating talks, classes and courses.

Thank you to our tutors of Arts and Crafts, Language, Computer, Science, Health, Philosophy, Politics and other fields. Thanks to our many speakers who present engaging and informative talks. Thanks to Gloria Lorenz for organising our Culture Club, which has gathered a devoted following.

### **Management Committee**

I wish to extend my thanks and appreciation to our Management Committee for their contribution, enthusiasm and support. Special thanks go to our office bearers, Gordon Whitmore (Treasurer), Terry Mercer (Secretary) and Tess May (Vice-Chair). I also thank Lucy Griffiths for formalising our strategic planning, which highlighted some important issues we needed to address. I am personally grateful to you all for the support, good advice and tolerance you offered me in my first year as Chair.

### **Staff**

Finally, I want to express our appreciation for the cheerful dedication and commitment from our staff. I would say much more and have done so in the past, but I am constrained by Ann, who told me I have offered enough praise. By enough, I assume she means too much. So I will thank our previous staff members, the fabulous Sandra, Sue and Marnie for jobs well done. I thank Nik who joined us early this year and, in Ann's words, has proven to be perfect for the role. I thank Joanna for her bookkeeping skills and her goodwill, Terry for our expanded programme production, Lesley for keeping our premises exceptionally clean and Ray Wooley for auditing our accounts. To Ann, I simply say thank you.

### **Next Year**

Our management committee members have all agreed to stay on for another year, which is good news for the Centre. If they elect me as Chair for another year, I commit to continuing the philosophy and programmes we have developed this year. I started by saying that I feel part of a strong and united team, dedicated to providing the best possible experience for our members. That is our main objective. We are here for our members. We should offer you the best value possible while remaining financially viable. We should preserve those aspects that are much loved. A good example of this is our restoration of the Out & About programme. We will need to review many things in the New Year, as nothing can stay exactly the same. However, we will seek to minimise change and maintain the essence of the Centre for everyone to enjoy.

Yours Sincerely

*Mal Christison* (Chair)