

Annual Report from the Chair

September 2021

I open my report from the Chair by recognising the traditional owners of this land and water, being the Whadjuk people, one of fourteen different language groups that form the Noongar nation. We offer our respect.

I began my report last year by saying what a strange year we'd had. Well, we just had another one. Early in the year, lockdowns and room capacity limits had the potential to reduce our activities. Our team worked hard to reschedule talks and courses and arrange new ones to allow as many members as possible to attend. These measures also protected our income stream, allowing us to retain our fabulous staff and remain viable throughout this financial year.

Last year I mentioned that we signed a rolling 3-year funding agreement with the Town of East Fremantle that provides financial certainty and security into the Glyde's future. We thank Cliff Collinson for his role as Councillor Liaison and his help with today's proceedings. We thank Peter Kocian for his help with our funding agreement and arranging the funds to reclad the cottage, fix the roof and rebuild the north side fence. We are truly lucky and grateful to have such a supportive Council.

We thank our Linkwest representative Mihaela Nicolescu, for attending today and acting as our Returning Officer.

In the financial year 2020-21, we achieved 2,956 course enrolments for 222 courses. These figures are only slightly less than last year, even though we were locked down for the entire term 3. We attracted 146 new members and our current membership is a healthy 672.

Our January Summer School was popular again, with 246 people making 504 bookings. Again we thank Gordon MacNish for his hard work to ensure the success of each course.

I want to thank Jac and Nik for their outstanding contribution to our success. We are lucky to have such a strong team. I receive many warm comments from members about the friendly, helpful and efficient service they provide.

We extend a heartfelt thanks to all our speakers and tutors who work so hard to provide our learning content. I think you will agree that our talks and courses are diverse, interesting, thoughtful and challenging.

I want to thank all our gardening team for their enthusiasm and tireless hard work. Our beautiful garden is a credit to you all. Our team also works hard to pot and sell donated cuttings, providing a good source of low cost and much-loved plants for our members. We thank Winn Little who recently retired from the gardening team, for the many years of love she lavished on our garden.

Jams and book sales also provide enjoyment to our members. We thank our enthusiastic jam, marmalade and chutney makers and our book donators. These activities may seem small individually but the benefits to our members are substantial.

This year we repainted our cottage. It looks very smart. Thanks go to Sandra, Jan and Lynn who chose our colour scheme and organised the painting. Thanks also to Jono Farmer for supervising various maintenance works on our cottage and arranging our north-side fence refurbishment.

Thanks to our Out & About committee, Julie, Tess and Jono for organising a series of most enjoyable and informative outings. Thanks go to Jono who has retired from this committee after arranging many popular visits. The Out & About committee welcomes two new volunteer members in Viveca Rains and Barry Ross. We also have a new volunteer driver in Stephanie Boyd and her partner David Delany is our new volunteer shepherd. It is encouraging to see new volunteers joining our team. Thanks also to all our volunteer drivers and shepherds. We have had many comments from our members about how much they enjoy these outings.

We thank all our volunteers who help with enrolments, mail-outs, letterboxing and the many tasks that make our centre so enjoyable. A special thanks to Marg Dewar and her team who organise the programme mailout and distribution every term, which is greatly appreciated. Another special thank you goes to Craig Johns who does an amazing job as our volunteer IT support. Thank you, Craig.

I want to thank our Management Committee for your support, your goodwill and your wisdom in difficult times. Gordon Whitmore has resigned from our committee due to ill health. We thank Gordon for his work, his wit and his humour. Special thanks go again to our Treasurer, Kerry Donovan. Kerry's work in managing our finances this year is outstanding. Special thanks should also go to our Bookkeeper, Joanna Mount, and Ann Reeves, who supported Kerry admirably in this difficult time. I understand that Di Cullen, Dale Chester and Maureen Hislop have stood down from our committee this time. We thank them for their contribution. I believe that we have several new nominations to join our committee today.

To maximise value for our members, Glyde is keen to keep our fees as low as possible. Our rolling funding agreement with the Town of East Fremantle has given us an unprecedented level of financial security, so our Management Committee has agreed to cover an income shortfall of \$42,000 for the 2021-22 financial year, with funding reserves. So the good news is, there will be no fee increases in this current financial year.

However, fee increases are unavoidable in the next financial year to cover our budgeted expenses. Membership fees have not increased since mid-2014 and course fees have not increased since July 2017. Room hire rates have not increased since Oct 2014. We have budgeted our next financial year (2022-23) and we estimate that annual membership will increase by \$5, course fees by 15 to 20% and room hire by \$5 per hour for non-Glyde groups.

Recently Glyde celebrated our 40th Birthday with a delightful party. Our volunteers made a huge effort to dress up the garden and the cottage, provide a visual display of our history and cater for some 70 people. We had songs written and performed for the Glyde by our singers and we had an extraordinary speech from Pam Jones who is one of the founders and was the original coordinator of the Glyde, 40 years ago. We also had at least six members of the original group of young women who founded the Glyde attend, many of whom are still active in supporting the Glyde today.

I am pleased to say that Glyde-In continues to provide a happy and enjoyable atmosphere for our members. We are dedicated to making it so. I feel that the Glyde remains a sanctuary from an ever crazier world. We wish you all well for the coming year. May it be happy, healthy and safe.

Yours Sincerely

Mal Christison (Chair)

