

Annual Report from the Chair

September 2022

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. Whadjuk Country extends from the Perth area in the South, through Mt Helena, Toodyay and out towards York. To you, we offer our respect.

This financial year marks the second in the rolling 3-year funding agreement with the Town of East Fremantle. We are truly lucky and grateful to have such a supportive Council.

With this greater financial certainty, our Management Committee made the decision to utilise funding reserves to extend memberships free of charge through COVID shutdowns and to postpone membership fee increases for the last financial year. Membership and course fees will increase slightly in the next financial year, from July 1 2022.

We thank our Linkwest representative, Jane Chilcott, for attending today and acting as our returning officer.

In the financial year 2021-22, we had 4,479 course enrolments in 261 courses. We attracted 146 new members, and our current paid membership remains around 600.

Our January Summer School continues to be popular with 631 enrolments in 26 courses. Again, we thank Gordon MacNish for his hard work to ensure the success of the summer school.

I want to once again 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 again extend a heartfelt thanks to all our speakers and tutors who work so hard to provide our learning content. We would also like to express our gratitude to the many members who provide feedback and make suggestions for future

classes, speakers, outings and events. We value greatly the ownership and contribution our members make to the success of Glyde-In and its programmes.

Again I 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.

Jams and book sales continue to 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.

Thanks to our Out & About committee - Julie, Barry, Viveca, Barbara, Eileen and Nik for organising a series of most enjoyable and informative outings. It is encouraging to see new volunteers joining our team – welcome Barbara and Eileen. 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 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. 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 who is leaving us this year to pursue a new career path in Transcendental Meditation. We wish her every success and thank her for a job well done.

Sadly, our long-term committee member and Treasurer, Gordon Whitmore, passed away this year. We will remember Gordon for his work, his wit, and his humour.

I am pleased to say that Glyde-In continues to provide a happy and enjoyable atmosphere for our members. We remain dedicated to making it so.

This speech marks my final act as Chair of Glyde-In, as my 4 years in the role ends today. I will miss being Chair as it gave me a sense of purpose and belonging. We have thanked many people today and there are many more who make the most wonderful contribution. Such strong goodwill makes the job of being Chair a pleasure. I am so proud of you all. It was an honour to serve you.

Yours Sincerely

Mal Christison (Chair)