

Chairperson's Annual Report

Glyde-In Community Learning Centre Inc 2025/26

I would like to acknowledge the Whadjuk people of the Nyoongar nation as the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today. I pay our respects to their Elders past, present, and emerging, and recognize their continuing connection to this land, water, and community.

I would like to welcome and thank Councillor Cliff Colinson from The Town of East Fremantle for attending today and agreeing to act as Returning Officer.

It is with great pride and gratitude that I present my final Chairperson's Annual Report for Glyde-In Inc Community Learning Centre for the year 2025/26.

In the 2025-2026 financial year we have continued to deliver quality programs and a welcoming environment for the local community.

Partnership with the Town of East Fremantle

First and foremost, I want to acknowledge the importance of the support we receive from the Town of East Fremantle (Council). From our beginnings in the 1970s, the Council has been a good friend, supporting the Glyde-In journey to become a stable and vibrant community centre. Council continues to provide our wonderful premises through a low-cost long lease. Jointly, we maintain and upgrade the building and garden. Earlier this year, Council reaffirmed its commitment to a further three-year funding agreement to support operational costs through until 2029. On behalf of the Management Committee and all the members of the Glyde-In I would like to express our appreciation for the ongoing support the Council has provided.

Programs and Activities

The heart of the Glyde-In is our vibrant and diverse calendar of programs. This year we have delivered 307 different activities and learning opportunities, attracting 4887 individual enrolments. Classes were offered as either weekly classes, single-session talks or a series of creative workshops. As you are no doubt aware the program is organised into nine categories:

Speakers Unlimited – our expert and topical speakers share thought-provoking, inspiring and relevant knowledge and information, based on their own expertise, experience and research. Always popular, over the last year we hosted 67 talks with 2,095 people attending.

Not So Trivial Pursuits – focuses on a deeper subject knowledge, or mastering a new skill such as ukulele, creative writing or philosophy. 22 courses were delivered for 285 participants.

Mind and Body – teaches ancient or contemporary forms of mind and body coordination and wellness. This year has included Tai Chi, meditation, different

forms of yoga and sound healing. 29 courses were delivered with 154 people attending.

By Hand – a dynamic program of creative arts and crafts including portraiture, lead-lighting, Japanese floral art, collage, screen printing and watercolour painting. 23 courses delivered for 285 participants.

Languages – Spanish, French, Italian, German, Ancient Greek and Latin have been taught at beginner to more advanced levels involving 47 courses with 520 participants.

Computers and Technology – covers a wide range of instruction on how to navigate through our dynamic electronic world. Classes are small and interactive. Individual “help desk” sessions are also available. 34 courses delivered to 195 participants.

Culture Club – offers discounted group booking for live theatre, concerts, ballet and symphony performances. 16 events were attended by 195 attendees.

Out & About – always popular, Glyde-In hosts group excursions to interesting places near and far. This program is organised by an energetic and creative group of volunteers who regularly surprise with new adventures and activities. The enjoyment and camaraderie experienced by participants is a delight to see. 35 outings delivered with 554 people attending.

Our Summer School, held over two weeks in January, continues to be popular – this year we had 534 enrolments across 32 courses.

In addition to our term programs, a range of ongoing group activities are run by volunteers. These include walking, cycling, book club, writers club, Mahjong and Scrabble.

We have a picturesque outdoor environment supported by volunteers who lovingly maintain the garden and grow and nurture plants for sale. Anyone who'd like to develop their green thumbs, learn about plants and perhaps help with some propagating would be warmly welcomed.

A big thank you to our Jam Tarts – a group of dedicated volunteers who regularly produce tasty jams and preserves for sale. Also thanks to the many people who donate seasonal fruit and vegetables for the preserves.

Summary of Key Outcomes July 1 2025 to June 30 2026:

4,887 course enrolments; increased by 670 enrolments from 2024-25

307 different courses: increased 44 courses from 2024-25

110 new members joined and total membership remains steady at approximately 650 over the last few years.

Governance and Leadership

This year the Glyde-In Management Committee was made up of nine members. The Committee met monthly, maintaining a focus on governance and strategic direction. Prudent management has resulted in the Glyde-In being in a strong financial position going into the 26/27 financial year. Careful budgeting and maintaining different income sources have enabled us to meet rising costs while keeping fees affordable. Further detail will be provided shortly in the annual Treasurer's Report.

As outlined earlier, in 2024 and 2025 the Management Committee reviewed and updated the Glyde-In Constitution that was registered in early 2025. This year we turned our focus to formally canvassing member's views through a Focus Group workshop held in January. The Focus Group Report was then fed into the Committee's review of the Strategic Plan process held between March and June.

At the Focus Group it was wonderful to hear from the 30 members who eagerly shared why Glyde-In is important to them:

- Offers easily accessed, affordable options to continue to learn and participate in the community
- Provides professional, informed and quality speakers and tutors
- Travel, outings and outdoor activities are diverse and highly valued
- Is welcoming, diverse and inclusive thereby reducing social isolation.
- Strong appreciation for the Council's continued support of the Glyde-In

Suggestions for improvement included:

- Car parking, and provision for disability parking remain an unsolved issue.
- Sometimes popular talks can feel too crowded.
- Demand can exceed supply for some popular programs and members can be disappointed.
- Acknowledgement that the building spaces and facilities do place some limits to growth as rooms are small and spaces heavily booked.

From March to early June, the Management Committee worked with two wonderful pro bono professional facilitators to develop a five-year Strategic Plan for 2026 – 2031. The Strategic Plan sets the organisations direction for the next five years aimed at enhancing our many strengths, including a welcoming and inclusive culture, diverse programs and a strong member base. It also highlights known challenges, such as a strong reliance on aging volunteers, shrinking funding opportunities, and the need to keep pace with IT systems and data analytics to enhance office procedures and support future planning. The Committee has now formed three short-term working groups to further develop and operationalise key elements of the plan. The Strategic Plan 2026-2031 is available on our website.

I would like to express my appreciation to all the members of the Glyde-In Management Committee for their expertise, hard-work and dedication guiding us through a very successful 2026.

Three weeks ago, we held a successful and fun afternoon tea singalong event. Shirley Guy's Glyde-In Ukeleles played, sang and provided a fabulous afternoon tea attended by 40 people. This event raised over \$800 to support our volunteer program. I would like to thank all the volunteers, committee members, musicians and members for supporting this event.

Special thanks to our Coordinators, Jacqui Reeves and Celine Brun whose dedication and creativity knows no bounds. This financial year they began sharing the co-ordination role which seems to be working well. In recent times you may have noticed the addition of Shelley Alcock providing casual admin support in the office. We are very happy to welcome Shelley to Glyde-In.

Challenges and Opportunities

Finding and maintaining volunteers remains a key challenge as many of our long-term members are aging. As mentioned earlier, we have a committee working group focused on attracting and keeping volunteers, so watch this space. A further challenge is managing the demand for popular programs and acknowledging members disappointment when they miss out.

However, the future for Glyde-In Community Learning Centre is bright. Our priority is to maintain the ongoing support of our community, local Council and collaborators. With our current financial and staffing stability, I believe we are well placed to be nimble and adaptive to change, and to continue delivering quality programs that enrich lives.

On behalf of the 2026 Management Committee, I extend my heartfelt thanks to every member, volunteer, staff member, and community partner. Your enthusiasm and commitment create the welcoming, vibrant environment that defines this Centre.

I wish the incoming management committee every success in 2027. Let us continue to learn, connect, and thrive.

With appreciation

Jane Vallance – Chairperson 2026

Glyde-In Community Learning Centre Inc.