

Annual report of the Chair of the Management Committee for the financial year 1st July 2017 to 30th June 2018

As Chair of the Glyde-In Management Committee, I'm pleased to be able to present my report for the past financial year. As my term as Chair finishes today, this will be my last Annual report.

In last year's report I spent the first nine paragraphs speaking about the problems etc. associated with our plans for a new building to replace our aging Art Shed. This year you will get just one paragraph because the building is finished and you're sitting in it.

Garden Room. It was with considerable sadness that we saw the much loved Art Shed demolished, but I'm sure you will agree with me that the Garden Room is a very worthy replacement. I can report that since the grand opening on February the 1st this year this room has proven to be a wonderful addition to Glyde-In's facilities. For the records I will again thank the Town of East Fremantle (\$25,000), Lotterywest (\$63,649) and funds from Glyde-In for providing the money needed to build the Garden Room and to furnish and equip it. A big thank you also to all the volunteers and staff members who work tirelessly to complete this project and a special thank you to Jono Farmer for his dedication as the building project manager.

Garden repair. The construction of the Garden Room led to considerable unavoidable damage to the garden and the irrigation system. We were very grateful to receive a Federal Government's Stronger Communities Grant of \$5,355 to help with the garden repair. These funds were used to repair the Irrigation system and to employ a professional path-layer to build a new entrance path from the gate to the front door. Volunteers made a huge effort to have the garden looking very respectful for the opening of the Garden Room.

Apart from the Garden Room lots of other good, or perhaps that should be some good and some interesting things, happened at Glyde-In this year.

Another great year. Programmes over this year's four terms were again of an outstanding high quality. We had 224 activities (231 last year including Summer School) with 812 (836 last year) people taking part in these activities. We had total enrolments of 3,845 for the year (3,963 last year). I believe the programmes designed by our staff provide a wide range of things to do and enjoy. They also provide many opportunities for social interaction for our members. This last point is one the things about Glyde-In that is most important to me. There is now much research that shows social interaction is such an important contributor to community and individuals health.

Because of the building of the Garden Room we were unable to conduct a summer school last January. Plans are well under way for a summer school January 2019.

Computer room. Another addition to our facilities was a re-fit of our computer room. The room was inconvenient because the furniture was bulky and cumbersome. The

tutors found it difficult to get around to each student's screen and the student found it difficult to clearly see the TV screen. Thanks to planning by tutor Craig Johns and then some very attractive wood and metal work by John Greville and Jono Farmer, we now have a sleek spacious computer room.

Staff matters. In July this year, we were sad to learn that our much loved staff member Marnie Brooker was to resign. Marnie has been with us since 2002. She started as a computer tutor, then an office volunteer and then a part-time staff member. For the past several years Marnie has worked from home, doing the graphics on our website and our programme. Over time her multiple sclerosis began to take more of a toll, and she gradually reduced her hours of work. I think her cheerfulness under such circumstances has been inspirational.

We welcome Terry Mercer as a part-time staff member. He has been employed to continue Marie's graphic design work.

Changes to membership categories. This year we were able to make some changes to our membership categories. Such changes could not be made previously because our Class Manager Computer system couldn't cope. Now the system can cope, we have five membership categories. They are (1) full membership, (2) concession membership, (3) full and concession discounted membership fees for residents of the Town of East Fremantle, (4) a single term membership and (5) a category for those not wishing to join but are happy to pay a higher fee to attend talks and outings. The categories 4 and 5 are designed for newcomers wanting to try us out or short term visitors. Our hope is that when people using 4 or 5 see how wonderful our programmes are they will become full members.

Glyde-In Garden. Over my time as Chair I have been amazed at the number of people who have said how much they love and appreciate our garden. For me one of the highlights of visiting Glyde-In is to walk to the front door through a garden setting. I wonder how many other Community Centres can match that. Although the front garden is a bit smaller because of the Garden Room, I think the beautiful weather-board look of the room actually enhances the garden.

I take this opportunity to thank the Garden Gnomes for the wonderful job they do looking after our lovely garden. The Gnomes are a dedicated group and include Jan Machin, Lynn Christison, Jono Farmer, Ann & John Golder, Win Little and Kay Stella. The Gnomes hold regular working-bees, run a watering roster during the summer months and propagate plants to sell to raise funds. I also thank those people who donate plants for sale.

Town of East Fremantle Support. It gives me much pleasure to again acknowledge the support we receive from the Town of East Fremantle. They lease this property to us and provide us with a generous financial grant. We are most grateful for this support and we also appreciate the Town giving us the freedom to conduct Glyde-In

as an independent organisation. The support we receive from the Mayor Jim O'Neill, local Councillor Cliff Collinson and CEO Gary Tuffin and the other elected Councillors and staff of the Town is greatly appreciated.

GST problem. One of those interesting things that happened this year was a comment from an auditor that we needed to check whether GST should apply to our membership and course fees. It took a long time to resolve this issue. Ann and our book keeper Jo spent a lot of time talking to the Tax Office about this. They eventually concluded that unless we wanted a definitive 'ruling' on the issue (at a cost to us) it was up to us to be satisfied that GST is not applicable. After a lot of time and calculations, we determined that our membership and course fees do not attract GST.

Building damage. We suffered a break-in May with considerable damage done to two walls. Our alarm system frightened them off. Fortunately there was no loss of equipment or money. The Town of East Fremantle is considering what could be done to the building's walls to make breaking in more difficult.

Bus trips. The Management Committee decided to try changing the way we operate our bus trips. Three things contributed to this decision.

- a) We found that staff were spending many hours trying to find relief bus-drivers for when our volunteers were not available.
- b) One of the buses we hired from Thrifty Bus Hire was damaged on one outing, costing us several thousand dollars
- c) Our trips were often over-booked and people were missing out because the 21-seater bus was too small.

The Committee decided to try using the services of a bus tour company. This would give us much more flexibility in the choice of bus size. Because the company owned the buses they provide the driver. This decision has not been a complete success. Those doing the trips have said they miss the attention of our volunteer driver Mary and hostess Glenda; some the fellowship and comradery has been lost. Mary and Glenda were also upset that their volunteer work was not required. After this trial period it is clear that the bus trips situation needs a re-examination by the Committee.

The Glyder. In August last year the first edition of our newsletter, The Glyder, was emailed to members. This very attractive publication was created by Pam Riordan. Although Pam is stepping down from the Management Committee, she will carry on as editor. So if you have some news about Glyde-In that you would like to share, please contact Pam.

Volunteers. Congratulations to Sue Luke. In October last year Sue was awarded the *Linkwest Volunteer of the Year*. A very well deserved accolade for Sue and recognition for all the work she does for Glyde-In. She makes great preserves and marmalades which are sold making a considerable profit for Glyde-In. And when she is not doing that she is regularly helping as a volunteer in the front office.

Thank you to all the volunteers that run our activities like the book club, chess, mah-jong, scrabble, meditation, songsters, making music, walking and cycling groups.

Other Acknowledgements. To finish this report I wish to thank various other groups or individuals who have contributed to another successful year.

Thank you to our Arts and Crafts, Language, Computer, Philosophy and other tutors. They make our "Learning Centre" a reality. Members taking classes appreciate the time spent by tutors preparing and presenting their class.

Thank you to our many speakers who give up their time to present interesting and informative talks. I'm always pleased to see the active participations by our members, and the tricky question that our very well informed members ask.

Thank you to Gloria Lorenz for organising our Culture Club for another year. Gloria organises such enjoyable events for members to attend.

Thank you to Ray Woolley for auditing our accounts for this financial year.

Management Committee. I would like to thank the Management Committee members for their participation in meetings, their general enthusiasm and their contribution to the running of Glyde-In for the past year. The members were Audrey Bolger, Mal Christison, Jono Farmer, Lucy Griffiths, Gordon Mac Nish (Chair), Tess May, Terry Mercer (Vice-Chair), Robert Potts (Secretary), Pam Riordan and Gordon Whitmore (Treasurer). I would also like to say thank you to the committee members for supporting me.

Staff thank you. I have saved my last paragraph to say a special thank you to our staff; coordinator Ann, staff Sandra and Marnie and book keeper Joanna. We are certainly most fortunate to have such wonderful staff. Our staff continued to serve the Glyde-In community with dedication, helpfulness and cheerfulness. As I finish my time as Chair I would like to say how much I have appreciated their cooperation and their willingness to advise and assist me. Thank you Ann, Sandra, Marnie and Jo. I have enjoyed working with all of you.

I wish the new Chair and committee all the best for the coming year.

Thank you.

Gordon Mac Nish (Chair).