

Annual Report from the Chair September 2020

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

Well, what a strange year we have had. Who would have predicted that we would be forced to close for seven months? And who would have predicted that during this closure, we would retain our wonderful staff and remain financially viable, ready and able to resume operations in Term 4?

Surviving the shutdown proved to be a considerable undertaking. Ann, Nik and Joanna worked long hours refunding course fees, rewriting budgets and reworking our programme to go on-line. We credited \$10,000 worth of cancelled activities to members, who can use the credits over the next 12 months. We refunded \$2,000 to those who requested it. Several members graciously donated their refunds back to Glyde-In. Ann, Joanna and Kerry successfully applied for Jobkeeper and a Lotterywest grant that made a significant contribution to our positive financial position.

In this time frame, we signed a rolling 3-year funding agreement with the Town of East Fremantle that will provide financial certainty and security into our 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 re-clad the cottage. 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 June, Ann announced her retirement as Glyde-In Coordinator after 21 years of outstanding service. I will take this opportunity today, on behalf of everyone at Glyde-In, to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for everything that you have achieved. Your warm and caring manner, coupled with your gentle but firm management style and quiet diligence has created an organisation that is loved and respected by our large community of volunteers, tutors, members and council. Thank you, Ann, from all of us. Can we show our appreciation please?..... Ann will stay on in a part-time role during the hand-over to Jacqui.

In the financial year 2019-20, we achieved 3,953 course enrolments from 906 individuals. These figures are a tribute to Ann's extraordinary programming skills. We attracted 181 new members and 527 renewals, bringing total membership to a healthy 700 plus. In March we extended all memberships by six months, free of charge, to compensate for the shutdown period.

We extend a heartfelt thanks to all our tutors who work so hard to provide our course content. We hope that you have missed us during the shutdown. I know we have missed all of you. We love your work and look forward to our restart in Term 4.

I want to thank Nik for her wonderful contribution to our success. Nik is a quiet achiever and a thoughtful colleague. I find her feedback and advice most helpful. Thanks, Nik.

Another quiet achiever is Lesley, who kept on cleaning all through the shutdown. Lesley takes pride in keeping our cottage clean and tidy and it shows. Thanks, Lesley.

Our January Summer School was a galloping success with 246 people making 504 bookings. Thanks go to Ann for the programme and Nik and Ann for the organisation. Particular thanks go to Gordon MacNish who worked hard and long to ensure that furniture was in place, speakers greeted and introduced, and the details sorted out to ensure the success of each course. We assure you that Summer School will be back this January and hope that we can continue our success of previous years.

Late last year we began supporting CARAD (Coalition for Refugees, Asylum-seekers & Detainees) by acting as a drop-off point for food donations. Members responded – and still do – generously, and Amnesty International collects the items fortnightly to take to CARAD in North Perth. The food is distributed to CARAD clients who have no access to social support or jobs.

In this same spirit of community, Glyde-In launched a Bushfire appeal in February where members donated \$18,744 for the East Gippsland region's community centres. We thank those members for their generous donations to such a worthy cause.

Our language courses continued during the shutdown, first online and then back in our premises. We thank Millie, Francesca and Ruperto for complying so enthusiastically with our Covid hygiene requirements and for returning some of the joy to Glyde-In that was absent during the hard shutdown.

We thank Jan Machin for managing our gardening group so well for many years. Early this year Jan asked Lynn Christison to take over her role and Lynn was delighted to accept. I want to thank all our gardening team for their enthusiasm and tireless hard work. Our beautiful garden is a credit to you all.

We thank our building maintenance team, which consists of Jono Farmer, Gordon MacNish and others as required, who have worked hard throughout the year. Notable achievements include managing the recladding of the cottage - thank you Jono, painting the cottage and the garden room – thanks Jono and friends, painting the front door yellow - Jono, building a planter box, replacing the window boxes, fixing the roof after a tree fall – Jono and friends, regrading the ground and installing a downpipe drain to protect the cottage from damp – thank you Gordon, fixing the sprinkler system – Gordon and friends, and removing the recently collapsed Grevillia – thanks Jono and Gordon.

In October, Jono has arranged for the rebuilding of the boundary fence alongside Glasson Park. The fence has termite damage and is beginning to fail. Our council has agreed to pay for the work with Jono supervising the contractors.

Sue Luke was our jam maker extraordinaire, but we lost her services when she moved to the far northern suburbs. However, her skills are not lost as a new group of women, coordinated by Liz Howell, took on Sue's role as the makers of jams, marmalades and chutneys. Thanks go to Sue for her many years of hard work and to Liz, Vicki, Kate, Jenny, Marea and Deidre.

Thanks to our Out & About committee, Sandra, Glenda, Julie and Jono for organising a series of most enjoyable and informative outings last year and early this year, until the shutdown stopped us. We hope to resurrect this program in the future. We need to consider the safety of bus trips due to social distancing requirements. Thanks go to Sandra and Glenda have retired from this committee after many years of wonderful support. Thanks also to our volunteer shepherds and drivers. We hope to be able to use your services again soon. Meanwhile, Jono has organised some meet-there outings for Term 4 of this year. Please check your programme for details.

We thank all our volunteers who help with enrollments, mailouts, letterboxing and the many tasks that make our centre so enjoyable. 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. Special thanks go to our Treasurer, Kerry Donovan, who took over the role from Gordon Whitmore, and quickly became a valued member of our team. Kerry's work in managing our finances this year is outstanding. Special thanks should also go to our Bookkeeper, Joanna Mount who supported Kerry admirably in this difficult time.

Another special thank you goes to Lucy Griffiths who overhauled and updated our policies and procedures manual including new (post-Covid) procedures for business continuity and Centre operations during the pandemic. Lucy also led a series of workshops that reworked our Strategic Plan, resulting in a series of positive actions that benefit Glyde-In members. Lucy has resigned from our Committee today due to other commitments.

Judith Ingle also resigned from our Committee today and I want thank her for her worthy service over several years. We accept these resignations with regret. We will miss you both and wish you both well for the future.

We look forward to next year which will hopefully remain Covid safe and allow us to return to full operations. I'm sure we have all missed our friendships, the courses and the buzz that is Glyde-In in full flight. We have a new coordinator who will make the role her own. We wish Jacqui every success and look forward to working with her into a bright future.

And a reminder that we have invited our members to a Spring Picnic at 2 pm on Thursday the 8th of October, at Glyde-In, to thank Ann and welcome Jacqui. We look forward to seeing you there.

Yours Sincerely

Mal Christison (Chair)